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AMMAN SUNDAY, JANUARY 10, 1999, RAMADAN 23, 1419

Price: Jordan 200 Fils

#### Former Mossad chief joins Labour leader's campaign

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Thursday misdeness

TELAVIV (AFP) --- The former head of Israel's Mossad secret service, General Danny Yatom, has joined the election campaign staff of Ehud Barak, head of the opposition Labor party, a campaign official said urday. Yatom resigned as head of the service last February after a series of blunders by Lin Ang icoman Ana Mossad agents, including a failed assassination attempt on a Palestinian militant in Jordan

#### Three Iraqis seeking political asylum in the Philippines

MANILA (AP) — Three tragis have sought poliocal The for me asylum in the Philippines but the government has not yet decided whether or not to accept them, Manila newspapers reported Saturday. The reports, quoting Foreign Undersecretary Lauro Baja, said the asylum request was I'm to face i. made by the U.N. High Consmissioner for Refugees on behalf of the Iraqis, who were there of their expected to arrive on a ship unselling 🖘 from Indonesia late Friday, There was no immediate word about them Saturday.

#### U.S. deports record puign on De. number of illegals

WASHINGTON (AP) - The

lensline, a æ U.S. government said Friday it removed a record number of illegal immigrants from the United States last year, deporting 171,154 foreigners with annual records or other dismantying factors. Removals for the fiscal year that ended in September were up 50 per cent from the 1997 record of 114,386, the Immigration and Naturalisation Service said, IIV III no mit boasting that the figures were t than other well ahead of the agency's goal of 123,000 deportations. The figures don't include the estimated 1.5 million cases of auth menul 🖭 illegal immigrants apprehended at the U.S. borders last year, most at the Southwest border, and immediately turned back.

#### Bail denied for two in alleged forced said in 1 spice. h the marriage case

lent in abita. j po be med. BUFFALO, New York (AP) a tradicated ... -Two men accused of trying uhwan planta bound-andgagged woman across the U.S. the state of border in a frigid car trunk proce in were denied bail Friday as ा सामान्य family members disputed her nis "The const claim of being forced into an o mercacilian) arranged marriage. A federal e all the f magistrate ruled that r a person by Afghanistan natives Jamal on the fire Nasser Aziz, 37, of Toronto, The field of or in and Wahid Nader, 29, of San ारे जाते हिल्ली Francisco, are a danger to the is most gard woman, Mine Betoor, Aziz, Jechol amen) Ms. Betoor's uncle, and Nader, in the istal her would-be husband, face bidnapping and smuggling charges. Immigration agents discovered Ms. Betoor at the Rainbow Bridge in Niagara fall discover Falls on Jan. 1. Authorities said her hands and feet had been HNOTON OF bound, a scarf was placed in ier, have drive her mouth. 111-11 14-ph.

#### all to the Host Minister fathered in of The son at age of 17'

and on the LONDON (R) — Britain's newly appointed Trade Secreand the state of t outphen Byers, acknowledged he had fathered a son when he was when he was just 17 years old.

Byers, 45 Byers, 45, issued a statement stying he had never made a scree of the statement as a scree of the statement as a screen as na ar had due. kept in touch with his 28-yearwere have he old son. He also made a plea to the media to leave his son and Of the land his son's mother alone. "We are talking about events which look place 28 years ago when both my son's mother and myself were 17 years old." he spokesman said Byers made the statement following specuation that a newspaper was about to publish details of the relationship.

# Regent-Koumura talks focus on Mideast peace process, Iraq and bilateral relations

By Francesca Ciriaci

AMMAN — HRH Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, and Japanese Foreign Minister Masahiko Koumura on Saturday held talks on the Middle East peace process. Iraq, bilateral relations and Jordan's economic situation and needs.

The Regent and Koumura discussed mechanisms to develop bilateral ties and widen the scope of cooperation in various fields.

In a meeting at the Royal Court late yesterday, the two stressed the need to push forward the peace process to achieve permanent and comprehensive peace that would guarantee the rights of the concerned parties.

Prince Hassan stressed Jordan's commitment to preserve Iraq's territorial integrity and sovereignty and pointed out the need to ending the suffering of the Iraqi people, adding that Iraq should once again play its role as an important country in the region.

Calling for the establishment of a regional conflict resolution centre. Prince Hassan highlighted the need for regional mechanisms involving all countries in the region, in order to deal with crises and resolve them peacefully.

At a press conference on Saturday night, Koumura's spokesman described the Japanese minister's talks with the Crown Prince as very fruitful and said both sides commended the "excellent" relationship

Jordan made it clear that it is facing many difficulties, deriving mainly from its being right in between the two most troubled areas in the region: Iraq and the Palestinian territories," said Masaki Okada, Koumura's spokesman.

We understand, and we are ready to alleviate Jordan's difficulties, especially concerning its balance of payments, because of this country's role as a very important stabilising factor in the region," Okada told reporters.

Those who are cooperative in the peace process, deserve to get some sort of peace dividends," he assen-

Koumura arrived here yesterday afternoon, on the fourth leg of a week-long Mideast tour which started on Wednesday and has already taken him to Egypt, Lebanon and Syria. Koumura is scheduled to

leave the Kingdom today for the Palestinian self-rule areas and Israel. Okada said Koumura's

mission was aimed at promoting the peace process. by urging Israel to stick to the agreements it signed with the Palestinians, and by urging the Palestinians to 'proceed with patience" on the path of peace.

"We will ask Israel to implement U.N. resolutions 242, 338, 245, and all international agreements signed," he stated.

(Continued on page 12)



HRH Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, accompanies Japanese Foreign Minister Masahiko Koumura (right) and UNRWA Director Peter Hansen on a visit to the Hitteen refugee camp northeast of Amman nn Saturday (Photo by Yousef Al 'Allan)

# Iraq MPs urge scrapping of border with Kuwait

BAGHDAD (AFP) — Dozens of Iraqi MPs on Saturday called for the scrapping of a U.N. resolution demarcating the sanctions-hit state's border with Kuwait, during the opening of an extraordinary two-day session here.

The resolution "is without precedent, unfair and arbimary ... (it) is not a prerogative of the Security Council, but should be solved bilaterally or by arbitration," said MP Ibrahim Yussef Turki Jaddua.

"The Security Council imposed this decision on the basis of a Briosh map never recognised by Iraq... Iraq was amputed of territory and oil fields. Why must lrug continue to accept this unjust situation? he said.

Iraq has on several occasions recognised the border, covered by U.N. Resolution 833 adopted in May 1993, most of which is monitored by the U.N. Iraq-Kuwait Mission Observation tUNIKOM) established in April 1991.

When we accepted this arbitrary resolution we thought it would lead to a lifting of the embargo after a reasonable period," the head of the parliamentary committee on Arab and international affairs. Khaled Shihab Al

Duri, told AFP after the sex-

Crippling U.N. sanctions were imposed on Iraq following its 1990 invasion of Kuwait. Iraqi forces were pushed out of the emirate hy a U.S.-led mulchanonal coalition in the 1991 Gulf War. During the session other MPs called for an end to dis-

The U.N. Special Commission (UNSCOM) for Inigi disarmament stopped its operations prior to the fourday U.S. and British missile attacks that ended Dec. 20.

armament operations in Iraq.

(Continued on page 12)

# Blair warns Iraq response will be

Minister Tony Blair warned Iraqi President Saddam Hussein on Saturday that a military response will be "swift and immediate" if he continues to pose a threat to

personnel based here.

'And if there is any question of reprisals being taken against allied forces or their friends, then our response will be swift and immediate in the region." the premier

wing of a British Tomado

His warning came during a one-day visit to Kuwait that included top-level talks on lrug in the face of heightened tension over "no-fly" zones in the sanctions-hit

Blair, en route from South Africa, met Emir Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah. the crown prince, defence minister and foreign minister at the Bayan Palace in Kuwait City, officials said.

The prime minister later met some 500 British soldiers and Royal Air Force personnel stationed at this airbase 80 kilometres north of the capital.

(Continued on page 12)

# Jordan says Israel's refusal to return Arab lands spells disaster

AMMAN (AFP) — Jordan said Saturday that security and peace will not come to the Middle East until Israel returns Arab east Jerusalem and the Golan Heights which it occupied in the 1967 Arab-Israeli war.

Reacting to an Israeli parliamentary move to make it more difficult to give back the territories, Jordan's Royal Commussion for Jerusalem Affairs said the "dangerous" move "threatens the peace process with failure."

Peace demands the return of the Golan Heights to Syria, of south Lebanon to Lebanon and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital," said Abdullah Kanaan, secretury general of the commission, which is headed by HRH Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent.

"Anything else and the region will move inexorably toward a series of disasters the size of which God alone knows," Kanaan said in a statement received by AFP.

The Israeli parliament voted 55 to 35 with 18 abstentions Monday approve a bill requiring that any territorial concessions on the Golan or Arab east Jerusalem be approved by at least of members of partiament as well as in a national referendum.

The bill must pass two more readings before it becomes law.

Kanaan condemned the bill, suggesting it was being used as a political pawn in the run up to Israeli general elecoons expected in May.

The time has come for Israel - if it wants to live in peace and security - to stop turning back the clock and put an end to the exploitation of occupied Arab land in domestic squabbles.

Jordan signed a peace treaty with Israel in 1994 in which the Jewish state agreed to respect the present special role" of Jordan with regard to the Muslim holy shrines in

Arab east Jerusalem, on the edge of the West Bank, formed part of Jordanian territory from 1950 until Israel's occupation in June 1967.

# PNA calls for pressure on Israel

RAMALLAH (AFP) -The Palestinian cabinet Saturday called on the international community to put pressure on Israel to force it to respect the U.S.brokered Wye River accord in the run-up to May's elec-

In a statement issued after its weekly meeting the cabinet expressed fears that Israel was using the pretext of elections to freeze the land-for-security agree-

mænt. It anacked Jewish senlement activity as a violation of the accord, which barred both sides from actions that could change the status of the West Bank and Gaza

Strip.

The Israeli government announced on Sunday it had received tenders for the construction of a Jewish settlement in Jabal Abu Ghneim in Arab east Jerusalem, and on the same day Israeli television revealed work had started on another settlement near Ramallah.

The United States has shown its displeasure over Israeli actions, with Secretary of State Madeleine Albright refusing to meet Foreign Minister Ariel Sharon during his recent visit to New York.

Albright also cancelled an expected visit to Israel and the Palestinian territories to monitor implementation of the Wye agreement, Israel's foreign ministry Tuesday outlined what it called numerous Palestinian violations of the accord in a bid to deflect international criticism of its decision to freeze implementation.

In a memo intended for use by Israeli diplomats but released to the press, the ministry set out a series of conditions it said the Palestinians must meet before Israel will hand over any further territory as called for in the agreement.

Israel is demanding in particular that the Palestinians give up their plan to proclaim a state unilaterally on May 4, when the five years of autonomy agreed under the Oslo accords come to an end.

The Wye River agreement called for three Israeli withdrawals from the West Bank, spread out over three months. Only the first has been carried out. The second fell due in December.

# Butler admits inspectors used U.S. monitoring equipment

CAIRO (Agencies) - Top U.N. arms inspector Richard Butler admitted in an interview published Saturday that UNSCOM used U.S. equipment to eavesdrop on Iraqi military officials.

"We certainly tried to monitor the communications concerning inspections -- namely telecommunications that gave instructions to hide what we were looking for." Butler said, quoted in the Arabic language Al Hayat newspaper.

"But I never authorised eavesdropping to monitor the travel of President Saddam Hussein," said Butler, according to a translation of the Arabic text of his remarks in the London-based paper.

Butler, head of the U.N. Special Commission (UNSCOM) on disarming Iraq, also implicitly admitted that a memorandum from his predecessor Rolf Ekeus "indicates" that UNSCOM was aware of U.S.

information-gathering on Iraq by U.N. arms inspectors.

According to Al Hayat, the September 1996 memorandum quotes Ekeus "complaining that eight months after the start of the eavesdropping, the U.S. intelligence services are refusing to provide UNSCOM information."

Butler said that when "I took my job they asked me if I wanted to use this technology" of eavesdropping. "I thought about it for a long time and I examined the nature of this technology, its limits and its objectives, and I decided that it was legal for UNSCOM to use it as long as leaq tried to fool us and hide the truth," he said.

But he stressed that he had ser "strict rules to ensure that UNSCOM's job was not used for other objectives." Asked if he felt he had been

fooled by the Americans, But-

ler said: "I cannot use that

word now as long as the whole

On Friday Butler sought clarifications from U.S. authorities about allegations that Washington used U.N. eavesdropping operations in trag to undermine the Iraqi president.

Butler said he was particularly concerned by a U.S. State Department spokesman's comment on Jan. 7 that "American support to UNSCOM] was specifically to facilitate UNSCOM, the U.N. inspectors' mission, and for no other purpose and was done at the direct request of the U.N. Spccial Commission." The Washington Post report-

ed Friday that the U.S. last March "took control" of the operation involving sophisticated monitoring devices in leag which had been used by the U.N. weapons inspectors.

(Continued on page 3)

### 'swift, immediate' ALI AL SALEM AIRBASE (AFP) - British Prime warplane.

the region. "What Saddam has to realise is that we are not going to allow him to threaten his neighbours or threaten the stability of the region without taking action," Blair told British Royal Air Force

said, speaking under the

# Another Briton kidnapped in Yemen

LONDON (AFP) - A British oil worker was abducted Sarurday in Yemen. Britain's Foreign Office said, as hundreds of supporters of five Britons held there on suspicion of terrorism demonstrated for their release.

The latest kidnapping came less than two weeks after four hostages were killed in a shootout following an earlier abduction of westerners. A Foreign Office spokesman

named the Briton as John Brooke, aged 46, from Norwich, eastern England, who was kidnapped at 1320 GMT Saturday from a compound near Marib east of the capital Sana

On Dec. 28, 16 western tourists were abducted in southern Yernen. Three Britons and an Australian died in a subsequent rescue bid by Yemeni security forces. The spokesman said

Britain's ambassador had been assured by Prime Minister Abd Al Karim Irvani that "no force would be used to try to effect a rescue." "The British ambassador has

already spoken with the Yemeni prime minister, the deputy foreign minister and the minister of the interior and has arranged an early morning meeting tomorrow [Sunday] with the minister of the interior to discuss the situation."

Brooke's wife Kutherine said the kidnappers had cut a hole in the compound fence before taking her husband.

"He has always had protection, always had an armed guard. Obviously he didn't put up any resistance when they

they can bargain with him. Hopefully that will happen." She said her husband had

worked in Yemen for 12 years,

and was involved in the final

stages of drilling for oil for U.S. company Halliburton. "I rang John about a week ago because he was worried but he couldn't speak on the

telephone," she said. He was due to return home next Thurs-The Foreign Office had not

yet made any contact with the kidnappers, she added. The kidnapping came as

several hundred supporters of five Britons detained in Yemen on suspicion of terrorist activity demonstrated for their

release. It is understood the five are being questioned about plots

broke in, there was no point as to bomb targets in Aden and possible links to the December hostage-takers.

British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook said he had rung the Yemeni premier asking for the detainees to be treated fairly and swiftly.

"If those detained are to be charged they should be charged soon," he said. "They must be given every opportunity to defend themselves."

The Foreign Office said it had found nothing to support allegations that they had been maltreated.

Consul General David Pearce visited Ghulam Hussein, 25, Shahid Butt, 33, and Samad Ahmad, 21, in the Yemeni capital Aden and found them all to be in good health, a Foreign Office spokeswoman said.

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# Mubarak accuses Saddam of seeking new U.S.-British strikes

CAIRO (AFP) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak accused his Iraqi counterpart Saddam Hussein on Saturday of deliberately seeking fresh British and U.S. air and missile strikes.

"Saddam is inciting the United States and Britain to strike his country because he is not at all concerned about the plight of the Iraqi people." Mubarak told the government newspaper Al Gumhuriya.

"Saddam Hussein bas caught an illness called the Arab street. He imagines that demonstrators have taken to the streets around the Arab World in support of him and fails to realise that they are actually showing their sympathy for the suffering of their Iraqi brothers," be told the

Muharak charged that Saddam was so unconcerned about his people's plight that he refused offers of humanitarian aid from Egypt and other Arab governments following four days of U.S. and British missile strikes that ended Dec. 20.

The Egyptian president's comments were the latest salvo in a mounting war of words with Baghdad which

erupted late last month when he blamed Saddam for the Iraqi people's suffering.

The influential Baghdad daily Babel appealed for a ceasefire on Monday but Cairo's government-owned press rebuffed the offer and instead called for the first time for Saddam's ouster.

The government weekly Akhbar Al Yom joined the attack Saturday, with both Saddam and Deputy Prime Minister Tareq Aziz in its

It carried a front-page car-toon showing Saddam stand-ing over a pile of bodies with

a smoking gun. and Aziz saying: "I'm sure Your Excellency is tired of killing manually. I suggest we build an electric abattoir to kill people in alphabetical order."

The weekly also carried an ann-Saddam editorial and four pages of articles with headlines such as: "Will Saddam Hussein face an international criminal tribunal?" "Why Tareq Aziz hates Egypt and President Mubarak. Saddam on the international list of war criminals." and "The Egyptian people cry out against the butcher of Baghdad.

KUWAITI APPOINTED CHURCH LEADER: Kuwaiti Emmanuel Benjamen Gharib prays while his wife and children stand in front of church pews behind him just before an emotional ceremony to appoint him Reverend and Pastor of the Anglican Church of Kuwait. Many non-Christians came to attend the ceremony. the first of its kind in the conservative Gulf Arab region (Reuters photo)

### **NEWS IN BRIEF**

#### Kurdish rivals try to work out deal

ANKARA (R) — Leaders of two rival Iraqi Kurdish groups who control northern Iraq in opposition to Baghdad were trying to flesh out a four-month-old peace deal on the second day of their talks on Saturday, one of the groups said. "It is imperarive that the two leaders work to forge a common blueprint for the accord's implementation." Barham Saleh of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), said in a statement, PUK chief Jalal Talabani met former enemy Massoud Barzani of the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) in Barzani's hilltop stronghold of Salahuddin on Friday, the first meeting between the two leaders inside the mountainous enclave for four years. The PUK recognises that the Washington accord is a watershed in modern Kurdish political history and represents the region's best hope for an end to the intra-Kurdish difficulties... "the statement said.

#### Warning on Sudan's multi-party system

KHARTOUM (AFP) --- A multi-party system will not work in Sudan without the participation of Umma and the Democratic Unionist Party, two major political formations, a politician who has applied to set up his own party has warned. Siddek Sidahmad Khalil, who this week applied for registration of what he called the International People's Friendship party. told Saturday's Al Usbu daily that new legislation allowing political associations was "a rope entwined around democracy." The system "will never succeed without participation by the two major parties," he said. Apart from the National Islamic Front (NIF), which was the basis of the now ruling National Congress, all the main outlawed parties — Umma, the DUP and the Communist Party — have rejected the law and constitutional changes underlying it.

#### Egyptian revolutionary dies

CAIRO (AP) - Abdul Latif Al Baghdadi, a leading member of the Free Officers movement that ousted the Egyptian monarchy, has died at 81. Egypt's Middle East News Agency reported Saturday. Al Baghdadi was taken to hospital Friday for complications from his two-year struggle with liver cancer, said MENA. He died Friday night. He was one of the closest supporters of the late President Garnal Abdul Nasser, who organised the movement that toppled King Farouk in what became known as Egypt's 1952 revolution. He held a number of top offices under Nasser.

#### Radioactive metal contaminates Turks

ISTANBUL (AP) - Atomic Energy officials bave said two Turkish scrap dealers were contaminated by radiation while breaking up a two-tonne block of iron and lead, reports said Saturday. The two brothers were hospitalised on Friday. weeks after they developed severe burns on their hands and started vomitting. Yasar Ozalo, an Atomic Energy official, said a month ago the two were exposed to cobalt-60, a radioucrive form of the metal and a component of industrial equipment used to check the strength of welds and pipes, daily Hurriyet reported. Eight other workers were also submitted to medical tests but later released from hospital, private NTV television said. NTV said the brothers were in serious condition. The level of exposure was not clear.

# Members of U.S. doomsday cult deported from Israel

TORONTO (AP) - Members task force to cope with the of an American doomsday cult suspected of plotting attacks in Jerusalem to hasten the return of Jesus Christ were expelled from Israel early Saturday.

Israeli police said security agents were accompanying the 14 cultists, including six children, on the flight, which landed in Toronto Saturday morning. The cult members were taken to a waiting area away from reporters before their connecting flight to Denver.

Earlier, as they were shuttled in unmarked police vehicles into Ben Gurion airport in Lod. a suburb of Tel Aviv, two of the cult members covered their heads with coats when they spotted TV cameras. One bearded man looked straight ahead, his face grim.

None responded to questions shouted by reporters.

There is growing concern in Israel that the Denver-based group, the Concerned Christians, could be a forerunner of hundreds of fanatics who will be drawn to Israel at the close of the millennium for what they expect to be the second coming

Experts say such extremists could turn violent if their hopes are not met, and some predict mass suicides at holy sites. Israel has created a police

police surveillance. The homes were raided earli-

er this week and the 14 were detained. Three cult members were questioned by police about alleged plots to carry out violence at holy sites in Jerusalem in an attempt to has-

The Concerned Christians

arrived in Israel in September.

settled in two homes in the

wooded Jerusalem suburbs of

Mevasseret Zion and Moza and

were eventually placed under

ten the return of Jesus. The cult members denied wrongdoing and no charges were filed, but they were ordered deported.

On Friday, at Jerusalem's Al Aqsa Mosque, prayer leader Hayan Al Idrisi referred to the cult in his sermon to more than 250,000 worshipers: "We think this is a dangerous group," he

According to one scenario cited by millennium researchers, Christian extremists might try to damage Al Aqsa, Islam's third holiest shrine, to pave the way for rebuilding the Jewish Temple - considered by some Christians a necessary step before the return of Christ.

Al Idrisi claimed the cultists plotted to destroy Al Aqsa.

# Ramadan death toll mounts in Algeria

ALGIERS (AFP) — Two members of Algeria's security forces were the latest victims of the bloodshed marking the Muslim Holy Month of Ramadan in Algeria, the daily Demain I'Algerie reported on Saturday.

A soldier and a local

guard were gunned down in an ambush by suspected Islamists at Boudiane. near Jijel, 300 kilometres east of the capital on Thursday, the paper reported.

An Islamist was killed on Wednesday by security forces at Ain Turk near the western port city of Oran. the daily l'Authentique reported.

More than 90 people have now been killed by the Islamists since Ramadan began on Dec. 19. During Ramadan last year 1,200 people were slaughtered in violence

blamed on the Islamists.-Tens of thousands of people have died, most of them civilians, in a spiral

of violence triggered when the military regime cancelled elections that the now banned Islamic Salvation Front was poised to win in early 1992.

# Kissinger on visit to Israel, PNA areas

TEL AVIV (AP) - Former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, one of the early architects of the lsrael-Arab peace process, arrived Saturday for a visit to Israel and the Palestinian lands and planned to meet with lead-

ers on both sides. Kissinger and other dignitaries were attending a weekend conference at the Peres Centre for Peace. founded by former Prime Minister Shimon Peres. Peres was on hand to greet

the former secretary of state.

During Kissinger was also to meet Prime Minister, Benyamin Netanyahu and Palestinian

sbared many experiences here. I'm among friends." Kissinger told reporters.

He refused to answer questions about the current Israeli election campaign, saying be didn't want to get into "internal debate."

Al Hikma Modern Hospital

Princess Basma Hospital 4021275555

Catholic

Sisters

Princess Haya Hospital (03)2040111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA

AIRPORT

This information is supplied by

Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia

International Airport Tel.

(44)53200-5, where it should

always be verified. Information on

other flights can be supplied on

phone 44 (52700). Information on

Royal Wings flights can be sup-

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"I believe that every Israeli leader wants peace," he said.

Kissinger was a national security ... adviser .. in .. the administration of Presi-President Yasser Arafat. dent Ricbard Nixon when the United States mounted an airlift to resupply Prime Minister Yuzhak Israel's hard-pressed

forces in the early days of the 1973 Mideast war. Later Kissinger belped broker successful negotiations between Israel and Egypt and between Israel

and Syria on disengage-

ment of forces in Sinai and the Golan Heights. Israel and Egypt signed a peace treaty in 1979. . After a half-hour priyate

talk with Peres, Kissinger Left to call on Leah Rabin, widow of assassingled Rabin. Kissinger had a

long personal friendship with the slain leader that dated back to the late 1960s and early 1970s, when Rabin was Israel's States.

# Qataris kick off campaign for historic municipal elections

DOHA (AP) - Candidates for Oatar's first municipal elections set in March kicked off their election campaigns Saturday.

A dozen candidates took out advertisements in the country's major newspapers spelling out their goals and plans if they're elected to the 29-member Municipal Council.

Qatari ruler Sheikh Hamad Ben Khalifa Al Thani has said the March 8 elections would be the first step to an elected legislature early in the next century. Qatar now has an advisory council appointed by the emir, but it lacks legislative powers.

Even the new municipal council will be an advisory body, and its decisions will be non-binding. The names of the final 248 candidates. of whom five are women, were

announced Thursday. The most prominent candidates

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

are former Justice Minister Najib Al Nueimi, former head of the Qutar News Agency Saeed Al Kuwari, and the secretary general of the country's consultative coun-

cil. Abdul Rahman Al Jufeiri. Moza Al Malki. a columnist and professor of psychology at Qatar's University for Women, and Wadha Al Suweidi, head of the university's teaching college, are among the female candidates.

IRBID:

Roman

AQABA:

For the municipal elections. Qatar bas been divided into 29 districts, and one member will be elected to the council from each district.

Among states in the conservative Gulf, only Kuwait has an elected parliament, though women there are not eligible to vote or run for

In Qatar, both men and women will be allowed to vote and to run for a council seat.

Still, only about 20,000 of Quar's 150,000 citizens will be eligible to cast ballots. The law excludes Qataris who are members of the army and police forces and those who have been citizens for less than 15 years.

Qatar's total population is about 600,000, including some 450,000 foreigners, most of them labourers from the Indian subcontinent.

DEPARTURES

#### JORDAN TELEVISION Tel. 4773111-19 PROGRAMME TWO

15:10Cartoon - The Pink Panther	4632785
15:20The Pumpkin Patch	St. Joseph Church Tel. 4624590
15:30Lift Off	Terra Sancta Church Tel.
16:00 Doc Big Cat Diary	4622366
16:30(Ch. 2 Links with Ch. 1)	Anglican Church Tel.
17:00Le Grand Secret	4624853/4624811.
18:15Omar Ben Abdul Aziz	St. Afrem Svrian Orthodox
	Church Tel. 4771751.
19:00 Le Journal	Amman International Church
19:15Words of Wisdom	
19:30News Headlines	Tel. 5865897
19:35 Comeday — The Britis	German-speaking Evangelical
Empire	Congregation Tel. 5688404
20:00 Journey Across the Land of	The Evangelical Local Church
Blam	in Amman Tet. 581 t 295
20:30 Drama — Walker, Texas	Church of Jesus Christ of Lat-
Ranger	ter Day Saints Tel. 4654932
21:15Doc Faring & Ecology	St. John the Baptist at De la
21:30 Entertainment — Behind	Salle College Tel. 5661757
the Scenes	Church of the Annunciation
22:00News in English	Tel. 4637440
22:30 Split Decisions	Greek Orthodox Church Tel.
23:10 Drama — Doogie Howser	4646138
23:59 End of T.X.	Church of Presentation, Swei-
EJEJ 7 Humanismum Lake UL Lu'A.	fieh Tel. 5920146
	The Uniate Catholic Church
PRAYER TIMES	Tel. 4624757
	The English-Language

04:56	
05:11	(Sunrise) Duha
	Dhuhr
	`Asr
16:54	
	'Isha
<b>I</b>	

#### CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweifieh, Tel. 5920740 Assemblies of God Church Tel.

#### Bulletin supplied by the Depart-. 4624590 ment of Meteorology

rch Tel.	Temperatures are expected to rise slightly, skies partly cloudy, and
Tel.	winds westerly moderate. In
Orthodox	Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.
Church	Anman06/15
	Aqaba12/20
angelical	Deserts03/17

al Church Yesterday's high temperatures: ist of Lat-Amman 13, Aqaba 18 Humidity readings: Amman 60 per cent, 54932 Aqaba 67 per cent. at De la

Catholic

Catholic Parish Tel. 4614190

4892679

4628052

The Armenian

Church Tel. 477 | 33 |

Evangefical Free Church Tel.

The Baptist Church Tel.

Following are the temperatures expected today in the following

Ajloun	04/12
Jerash	05/16
Um Qays	05/16
Madaba	05/15
Petra	
Dead Sea	13/23

USEFUL

TELEPHONE

NUMBERS

The American Ortho Church Tel. 4775261	odox NIGHT DUTY
WEATHER	AMMAN: Dr. Farouq Nour

Dr. Mother Qraini4779959
AMMAN:
Firas Pharmacy5661912
Al Salam Pharmacy 4636730
Mayadah Pharmacy5537004
Rukn Al Dawa Pharmacy 5536169

IRBID: Dr. Ghazi Ta'amneh...(02)250080 Fou'ad Pharmacy (02)275360

ZARQA: Dr. Salah Saffarini 1091987565 Palestine Pharmacy.,1091983562

#### **EMERGENCIES**

	THE CONTROL CONCENSIONS
	Luzmila4630195
	Khalidi Maternity4644281/6
Food Control Centre4637111	Akileh Maternity 4642441/2
Civil Delence Department 5661111	Jabal Amman Maternity4642362
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue	Malhas, J. Amman4636140
4630341	Palestine, Shmeisani 5607071
Civil Defence Emergency199	Shmeisani Hospital5607431
Rescue Police 192, 4621111. 4637777	Jordan Hospital5607550
Fire Brigade4617101	University Hospital5353444
Blood Bank	Al-Munsher Hospital 5667227/9
Highway Police5343402	Al-Ahli, Abdali5664164/6
Traffic Police4896390	Italian, Al-Muhajreen 4777101/3
Public Security Dept4630321	AJ-Bashir 4775111/26
Hotel Complaints. 5605800	Army, Marka4891611/15
Price Complaints5661176	Queen Alia Hospital5157100
Water & Sewerage Complaints 4897467	Annal Hospital5607155
Amman Municipality Complaints	Al Amal Cancer Centre5353000
Telephone Information (directory	ZARQA:
assistance)	Zarqa Govt. Hospital 1091983323
Overseas Calls0132	Zarga National Hospital (09)900560
Central Ammon Telephone Repairs	Ibn Sina Hospital (09)98673)

#### Abdali Tel, Repairs... ..5661101 Jordan Television ..... ...4773111 Radio Jordan .... .4774111 Water Authority 5680100 J. Electricity Authority ...5815615 Electric Power Co.....4636381 RJ Flight Information....44-53200 Queen Alia Intl. Airport ....44-53200

#### HOSPITALS AMMAN:

The Arab Centre for He	eart and Spe-
cial Surgery	
The Islamic, Abdli	
Hussein Medical Cent	
Luzmila	4630195
Khalidi Maternity	
Akileh Maternity	
Jobal Animan Maternit	
Malhas, J. Amman.	
Pulestine Shmeisani	
Shmeisani Hospital	
Jordan Hospital	
University Hospital	
Al-Munsher Hospital	5667227/9
Al-Ahli, Abdali	.5664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajreen	
Al-Bashir.	4775111/26
Army, Marka	
Queen Alia Hospital	
Queen Full Incopium.	5403166
Annal Hospital	
Al Amal Cancer Centr	e5553000

# ARRIVALS

plied on phone 4875201-5

oval	Jordanian (RJ) Flights
8:25	Bombay (RJ
8:35	Jeddah (RJ
850	Dhahran, Riyadh (RJ

09:50	Dubai. Abu Dhabi (RJ)
17:15	New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
17:45	London (RJ)
	Athens (RJ)
	Geneva. Modrid (RJ)
	Paris, Brussels (RJ)
	Rome (RJ)
19:40	Frankfurt (RJ)
22:50	Vienna Aqaba (RJ)
00:40	Cairo (RJ)
Other	Flights

12:30.	Aden (IY)
14:35	
18:00	Dubai, Damascus (EK)
18:40 .	Beirut (ME)
18:45	
19:05	Paris (AF)
20:25.	Tel Aviv (LY)
20:40	
22:25	London, Damascus (BA)
23:35	Amsterdam (KL)
73-55	Lamaca(CY)
DOLEC .	LimicalC I)
00-00	Bucharest (RO)
04:00	Rome (AZ)

Royal Wings (RW) Flights 09:30 Aquba (arriving at QAIA) (RW)

11:10\_Aqaba (arriving at Marka Airport) (RW) 16:00. Aqaba (arriving at Marka Airport) (RW) 18:45 Tel Aviv (arriving at QAIA) 22:50 Aqaba (arriving at Marka Airport) (RW)

#### 11:00 11:25 \_\_\_Tunis, Casablanca (RI) 11:30 \_Amsterdam, New York (RJ) 12:15 20:30 20:35 20:45 21:10 22:45 00:10 ......Koola Lampor, Jakarta (RJ) 00:15 Other Flights 15:35 20:00 21:10

21:40Cairo (iv
00:35Amsterdam (R
01:55Bucharest (R
03:00Rome (A
Royal Wings (RW) Flights
07:00 Aqaba (from Marka A
port) (RW)
08:30 Aqaba (from Marka A
port) (RW)
16:30 Tel Aviv (from Marka A
port (RW)
20-30 Aosha (from OAIA) (RV

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights Beirut (RJ) Frankfurt (RJ) .....Agaba, Vienna (RI) Rome (RI) \_Amens (RI) ...London (RI) Jeddah (RJ) .New Delhi (R) Damascus (RI) ....Abu Dhabi, Dubai (Ri) ...Cairo (R) Sarpas (RJ) Bangkok (RJ) .Frankfurt (LH) \_Aden (IY) \_Istanbui (TK) \_Dubai (EK) \_Kiev (6U) Beirut (ME) Tel Aviv (LY) Rose Rose

# King to return to Jordan after 'Eid Al Fitr, prime minister tells Parliament

AMMAN (J.T.) - His Majesty King Hussein's return to Jordan has started with his arrival in London where be will undergo a period of recuperation before coming back to Amman, Prime Minister Fayez Tarawneb told Parrement on Saturday.

King Hussein told me by phone that the trip back nome bas begun, but he nd not give a specific dute for his return, saying only ha he will come back after the 'Eid Al Fitt holiwhen his recuperation period will have ended." prime minister said.

THRH Crown Prince Hasvisit to London on Friday, reassured the Jordanian people that "the King is well, his morale is high as usual, and he sends all

his wife as

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his love to his whole Jordanian family."

Tarawneh said that during the meeting, the King and the Crown Prince reviewed issues in the Middle East that have a direct impact on the Kingdom and means of dealing with the events.

"Soon after Prince Hassan left London, the King called me to express his delight over the visit, praising Prince Hassan's distinguished performance as Regent in the difficult period witnessed by the region recently. He also gave directives to the government about a number of issues," said Tarawneh.

"Following his return, Prince Hassan described his visit to the King as one of the best in his whole life, noting that he was

personally reassured about the King's health condition as he was completely cured." according to Tarawneh.

Crown Prince The intended it to be a surprise visit, but as soon as the King learned of it, and as a sign of improved health, King Hussein flew his helicopter from his residence in London to welcome his brother at the air-

For his part, the speaker of the Lower House of Parliament, Ahdul Hadi Majali, said the Jordanian people and their representatives in the House are overwhelmed with joy over the reassurances given them by Prince Hassan about King Hussein's recovery and his imminent return to Jordan.

> The first deputy to address he session was Mahmond Kharabsheh, who attacked 10-year economic restructuring programme agreed upon with the International Monetary Fund, saying that it has failed to solve any of Jurdan's eco-

> Kharahsheh urged the gov-

The deputy said the gov-

Deputy Rida Haddad demanded that the government extend assistance to

# Lower House begins debate on government's proposed 1999 budget

Deputies focus on economic reform programme, unemployment

AMMAN 1J.T.1 — The Lower House of Parliament on Saturday began debating the government's proposed JD2,160 million budget for 1999 and the recommendafions included in a report submitted by the House's Finance Committee last week.

A total of 66 deputies requested the opportunity to address the House during the debate, which is expected to last four days. Prime Minister Fayez Tarawneh and the Cabinet are anending the proceedings.

The deputies, who held morning and evening sessions, discussed topics ranging from the IMP-sponsored economic restructuring programme and economic reforms to questions related to poverty and unemploy-

nomic difficulties.

ernment, which he said has decided to embark on a new three-year restructuring programme after the current agreement ends in February, to present Parliament with the true situation about the economy, the country's debt and poverty.

emment should develop a national strategy to deal with poverty and stop what he described as the infiltration of Israeli firms into Jordan.

> uation. Deputy Abdullah Jazi

farmers and said Jordanian

farmers should be granted

interest-free loans and help in

marketing their products

Dweib tackled the question

of non-Jordanians employed

in the Kingdom. He demand-

ed that the government take

prompt action to stem the

influx of guest workers, the

number of whom has been

estimated by the government

Dweih added that these

workers are draining Jordan

of its hard currency reserves

through the remittances they

send to their home countries

while at the same time aggra-

vating the unemployment sit-

Mohammad

ahroad.

Deputy

at one million.

Deputies listen to a speaker during the opening session of the Lower House's debate on the government's proposed budget for 1999 (Petra photo) urged the government to raise the salaries of civil servants and military personnel.

Jazi demanded that the government subsidise animal fodder and adopt a comprehensive plan to attract investment in livestock farming. well drilling and veterinary services.

Deputy Raji Haddad nrged the government to take appropriate measures to end profiteering and the skyrocketing cost of living.

Haddad also urged the govemment to increase the funds available to needy persons eligible for the governmentsponsored social safety package and to finance small income-generating projects.

Deputy Riyad Sarairah criticised the government for continuing to provide sobsidies or financial assistance to tirms facing tinancial hard-

Sarairah asked that the govemment come up with a planto help livestock breeders, whom he said will be facing serious difficulties in view of the lack of minfall and the rising prices of animal feed.

Deputy Amjad Majali said unemployment and poverty can only be dealt with under a comprehensive reform programme. This programme, he added, should include a re-examination of the educational system and should

wide-ranging introduce vocational training programmes to enable Jordanians to take the place of guest workers.

Majali also arged the government to do whatever is needed to remove obstacles. blocking Jordanian exports to the Palesinnan territories and to help lift the sanctions on Iraq, one of the Kingdom's most important mar-

kets. Deputy Mohammad Bani Hanf criticised the government's economic performance, saying that poverty and unemployment could be addressed by taunching income-generating projects and ensuring that competent persons are appointed to appropriate positions.

Bani Hani said the government should encourage foreign investment and expand trade with neighbouring countries.

# JTC announces changes to telephone numbers

New numbers in Zarga, Irbid, Madaba, Balga

Jordan Telecommunications Company Saturday announced that on midnight Jan. 31 it will change the area calling code of the Zarqu and Madaba governorates and increase the number of digits in Irbid and Balga governorate phone numbers to seven from six.

In the Zarqa governorate, the area calling code will be changed to 05 from 09. Within Zarga city limits, the number 3 will be added to the beginning of all phone numbers, while the sequence 382 will replace the current 91 at the beginning of phone numbers in Zarqa governorate's free zone and Duleil area. In the Madaba gover-

norate, the area calling code will be changed to 05 from 08. In the city's Tbiban suburb, 32 will replace with 5 at the beginning of all numbers. Telephone numbers in

the Irbid governorate will

be changed as follows:

6560 will replace 236 at the beginning of numbers within Irbid city limits, 6570 will replace 291 in the Wadi Rayyan area, 6550 will replace 292 in Al Mashare and Waqqas, 6554 will replace with 237 in Al Manshia, 6587 will replace 238 in Northern Shouneh, 705 will replace 22 in Al Nueimeh, and 73 will replace 2 in

In Balqa governorate, 3 will be added to the beginning of phone numbers Salt city limits.

Ramtha.

### **NEWS IN BRIEF**

Prince Firas visits statistics department

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Prince Firas, His Majesty King Hussein's advisor for health affairs, Saturday inspected the General Statistics Department and discussed its geographic information system and activities with Director Hussein Shakhatreh.

Castro receives CSS director

AMMAN (Petra) - Cuban President Fidel Castro received the director of the University of Jordan's Centre for Strategic Studies, Mustafa Hamarneh, who was invited by the Cuban government to participate in celebrations marking the 40th anniversary of the Cuban revolution. During the encounter, Hamarneh congratulated Castro and wished progress and prosperity to the Cuban people. During the trip, Hamameh visited several independent and Communist Party research centres and presented a lecture on the Middle East peace process at CEAMO, Latin America's leading research centre on Africa and the Middle East. Hamarneh also held several roundtable discussions on issues related to transitions in Third World societies and processes of political and economic development.

#### Jordan to attend Omani festival

AMMAN (Petra) - Jordan will participate in the Muscat Festival for Arts and Popular Crafts, which will be held in the Omani capital Feb. 27-March 19 under the supervision of Oman's Royal Court. The Ministry of Tourism, the Jordan Tourism Board and other societies involved in crafts manufacturing will take part in the event. The ministry's secretary general, Alia Bouran. Saturday led a meeting to review the Kingdom's preparations for the event.

FM received EC envoy's credentials

AMMAN (Petra) — Foreign Minister Abdul Ilah Khatib on Saturday received the credentials of the new head of the European Commission in Jordan, James Moran.

#### what's going on

HONOUR CRIMES \* Special CNN programme on honour crimes in Jordan on Monday lan. 1) at 11:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. (local time).

FILM \* "Le Bossu" at the French Cultural Centre, Jabal Weibdeh, on Mon-

POETRY RECITAL \* Poetry recital with the participation of several poets at the City Hall, Greater Amman Municipality, Ras Al 'Ain at 7:30 p.m.

LECTURE "The Nymphaem" by Ms. Chan Tray at the Friends of Archaeology on Monday Jan. 11 at 7:30 p.m. (Telefax 5930682). (The lecture will discuss whether the Roman Nymphaem was due to the existence of the water channels or was it just a gynthasium for the clite).

**EXHIBITIONS** \*Exhibition of ceramics, sculpture, and abstract (plastic) art by Jordanian, Iraqi, Syrian, Lebanese, and Sudanese artists at Hammourabi

An Gallery, Gardens Street (Tel. 5536098), until Jan. 25. \* Exhibition of Nabataean silver jewellery at the Jordan Design and Trade Centre, off Wadi Sagra Street, until Jan. 15 (Tel. 5699141/2). \*The Warm Winter" — works by several artists at Orfali Art Gallery.

Um Uthaina (Tel. 5526932), until Feb. 1 \* The Tenth Anniversary Exhibition of Contemporary Arab Artists at Durar Al Funun, Jabal Weibdeh (Tel. 4643251/2, until Jan. 28.

# Ongoing relief campaign seeks to help needy during Ramadan

By Suha Ma'ayeh

TALIBIEH CAMP - An 80-year-old woman managed to make her way through a crowd in the poverty-stricken Talibieh refugee camp to obtain one of the yellow sachets piled up in a truck distributing aid rations.

"I want a sachet," pleaded the frail woman, whose ageing face was filled with lines etched by worry and mis-

Her call was heeded by a volunicer distributing rations of badly-needed sugar, rice and lentils under a Ramadan charity campaign organised by Her Royal Highness Princess

"By God, I swear we have nothing to eat," she cried.

The nearly 500 other men, women and children who gathered around the relief truck in the Palestinian refugee camp, a few kilometres away from the Queen Alia International Airport. echoed similar needs.

Ironically, on a hill a few kilometres away lies an affluent country club, a cool oasis of modem furniture and state-of-the-art sports facilities that only a unv number of Jordanians can

The government is under orders from His Majesty King Hussein to fight unemployment and poverty in a country where the gap between the rich and poor is widening amid an economic recession brought about by

a host of local and regional factors. "God knows how we survive from day to day," said another woman in her mid-30s as she carried her infant

in her arms next to the aid truck. There are days when I beg my neighbours for bread... sometimes we do not eat at all," said another woman. whose husband, a service driver, earns JD120 a month. Her mother-in-law lives with them under an extended family system that remains common

in Jordan. "We do not have enough money to buy gasoline, soap, sugar," she said, tears streaming down her eyes.

Princess Basma supervised the aid distribution under a continued campaign that has taken her to scores of impoverished villages and towns since the start of the fasting month of Ramadan, which hegan this year on

The annual campaign is organised by the Queen Alia Fund for Social Development (QAF) during Ramadan to comfort Jordan's poor and unem-

Princess Basma, president of the QAF, started the campaign in 1991 to reflect the spirit of Ramadan, when Muslims are encouraged to engage in

philanthropic acts. As heneficiaries in Talibieh Camp queued up to receive sachets, representatives of local residents gathered around the Princess at a school campus and aired their grievances -conmon issues heard across Jordan. whose economy has never really recovered from the devastating effects

of the 1990-1991 Gulf crisis. They complained of a shortage in medical services and asked that the government cover them under a health insurance scheme that benefits military personnel and civil servants and their families.

Other residents complained of intolerable smells from the camp's open sewers and mosquitoes haunting their

Over 30 per cent of the country's 4.2 million people live below the poverty

line, according to official figures. Unemployment, officially estimated at 15 per cent and independently at 27 per cent, is another major concern for most citizens, along with declining living standards, soaring foreign debt

and a severe water crisis. Most alarming, poverty, and its by-products of illiteracy and school

dropouts, is on the rise. Princess Basnia has appealed for years to all institutions and individuals in the country and abroad to donate what they feel is the right amount of zakat (Muslim almsgiving) or in-kind donations to help the campaign and to enable the QAF to implement sustainable development projects in

underprivileged areas in Jordan. The Princess has said she believes that any help that can be sustainable has more far-reaching results than one-time handouts.

Over the past eight years, incomegenerating projects launched by QAF during the month of Ramadan have benefited 961 families living in the hadia and in other rural and poor areas of the country.

They focus on fruit and vegetable processing and preservation, dairy products, animal husbandry and medicinal and herbal plant projects.

The campaign also provides medicine and expensive medical equipment needed by hospitals in remote areas in addition to wheelchairs and other items.

It also helps needy people by covering the cost of surgery and granting scholarships and assistantships to university and school students as well as clothing and food.

# National strategy for combating drugs to be presented March 8

AMMAN (J.T.) — The government Saturday announced that it will hold a national conference on March 8 to present a national strategy to combatdrug use and trafficking in the country.

Minister of Social Development Mohammad Kheir Manisar said the conference, which will he held at King Abdullah Mosque under Royal patronage. will review recent national efforts to fight narcotics through prevention and rehabilitation and will discass the effects of drug use on society.

During a preparatory meeting. Mamsar stressed the importance of strengthening coordination between public, private and voluntary groups to find a proper solution to the problem.

Last November, the Ministry of Awquf and Islamic Affairs said the government, in conjunction with voluntary organisations. was discussing a proposed S6 million scheme to comhat drug abuse.

The ministry added that the draft plan for the proposed three-year phased project was awaiting the Higher Anti-Narcotics Committee's approval.

The draft scheme includes measures to limit the supply and deniand for drugs and provide treatment and rehabilitation services to substance abusers.

It also provides for training anti-drug groups and cooperating with local and international organisations regarding the issue.

In addition to the Anti-Narcotics and Customs Departments, the health, awqaf, justice, social development, education. information, youth and five other ministries would be involved in the plan as well as three voluntary

organisations, several local universities and regional anti-drag bodies.

In September, the government said the amount of heroin seized by the Anti-Narcotics Department from 1996 to 1998 equalled the amount seized. during the previous 20

In 1997, 492 drug cases were prosecuted: in these 701 Jordanians and 102 other nationals were reported to have been involved. In the same year, 894 kg of hashish, 82 kg of heroin. 22 kg of opium. 237 grammes of cocaine and around two million pills were seized.

The most recent statistics for 1908 indicated that the department prosecuted 336 drug-related cases involving 581 Jordanians and 48 other nationals. In its investigations, the department seized 33 kg of hashish and 29 kg of hero-

In late 1997, the Anti-Narcotics Department disclosed that drug abuse had increased over the past few years and that over 3,000 citizens were suffering from drug dependency. Four years ago, His

Majesty King Hussein sounded the alarm on Jordan's drug problem.

He said then that United Nations figures showed the Kingdom had 7,000 drug abusers, dependent mainly on tranquillisers but also heroin.

"We are either ashamed or we are unable to talk about this problem and start finding solutions, be it through tougher measures against smugglers and dealers or setting up centres to treat addicts and save them," the King said, But to remain shy and to keep silent, in my view, is a mistake we are committing against ourselves and

# equipment

The paper said that UNSCOM's chairman and his deputy," U.S. national

including material that

might be helpful to the

United States in destabilis-

retained by Washington." the paper said, quoting unidentified U.S. officials.

UNSCOM's operations under the control of the United States or any other supporting government."

ing Saddam Hussein, was UNSCOM official said his commission has sent home

almost all its staff after they were evacuated to Bahrain before U.S.-British airstrikes on Iraq. "Only 12 UNSCOM staffers remain here after their successive reduction," said Goran Wallen.

chief of the commission's field office in Bahrain. UNSCOM evacuated more than 100 staffers from Baghdad in mid-

December to their base in this tiny Gulf island state and has been sending them to their home counties because of a lack of work. Wallen would not say

which staff members remain in Bahrain, but said they make up a "balanced composition" to perform UNSCOM's duties. One who has left is the commission's spokeswoman, Caroline Cross.

### Butler admits inspectors used U.S. Meanwhile in Manama, a

(Continued from page 1)

"information relevant to the work of the U.N. force, which was searching for Iraq's prohibited weapons or the means to conceal them, was shared with Charles Duelfer. information, "Other

Butler denied the charges, saying: "At no point have I given authorisation to place any part of

UNSCOM staff reduced to 12 persons in Bahrain

**NEWS IN BRIEF** 

In Nigeria, two charged over child slavery case

ABAKALIKI, Nigeria (AFP) — Two Nigerian men have been indicted on counts related to child slavery

after being found in charge of 57 missing children, the state-run Daily Times newspaper reported Saturday. The two identified by the paper as Jeremiah Okoye and Martin Aligwe, were found with the children, all of whom had previously been

declared missing from their bomes in eastern Ebonyi

State the paper said in a brief front-page report. The paper did not provide details of when or where the

men were beld or the condition of the children. The

paper had previously reported alarm in Ebonyi at the

number of children missing in the region. Ebonyi police spokesman Francis Bassey told the paper that

the accused were charged with conspiracy, bolding a

meeting of an unlawful society, kidnapping and slave

for corruption

# Serbs launch operation to free captive soldiers

(AP) — Threatening strong measures to combat ethnic Albanian "ierrorism." Serb forces launched a military action Saturday to try to free eight army soldiers held captive by guerrillas.

The Serb Media Centre in Pristina, which is close to Serbian authorities, said the operation began around 10 a.m. (0900 GMT) Saturday.

It did not specify what the operation consisted of, but a huge army convoy was seen moving through the provincial capital Pristina Saturday morning, beading in the direction of the northwestern town of Kosovska Mitrovica.

Teams from Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) had been trying to persuade the rebels to release the soldiers who were seized Friday, fearing the escalating violence will destroy the shaky cease-fire reached Oct. 12 to end

seven months of fighting. But an army source who declined to be identified told Belgrade's independent B-92 radio on Saturday that "all deadlines have expired." The OSCE could not immediately con-

after the Serb side promised to respond to the captures and to the killing of three Serb policemen in a separate ambusb.

The eight were taken captive near Kosovska Mitrovica, 40 kilometres northwest of Pristina. Friday when guerrillas attacked a Yugoslav convoy carrying rations to troops stationed in the field.

The rebel Kosovo Liberation Army said Saturday it bad sutrounded a vebicle and forced the eight to surrender after it entered KLA-held territory and opened fire on ethnic Albanian civilians.

"The captured were banded Over to judicial bodies and will be treated according to international conventions of war and prisoners of war," the rebels regional command for northwestern Kosovo said in a statement distributed to Albanian media.

Serb authorities reacted to the incident by deploying tanks throughout Pristina late Friday.

The three policemen were killed Friday when KLA rebels fired an anti-tank weapon at their armoured vehicle near the village of Suva Reka, 50 kilometres



Rehels of the Knsovn Liberatinn Army (KLA) run to their positions in the mnuntains over the village of Pecan, south of Pristina, during shelling by the Serh army of the village of Slapozan. The Serh army attacked Slapozan Saturday marning (AFP photo)

Media Centre reported.

Four policemen and two civilians were seriously wounded in a fierce gunbattle that followed, the Serb centre said. Rebels in the area told reporters they attacked the police in retaliation for government shelling of a nearby ethnic

Albanian village. It was the first time that guerrillas have been known to destroy an armoured vehicle since fighting began in February. The

south of Pristina, the Serb attack confirmed reports cial in the province, Veliko face-to-face talks have tbat rebels have obtained better weapons.

The KLA is fighting for independence from Serbia. the main republic in Yugoslavia.

The continuing violence has increased fears that the three-month-old cease-fire deal between Yugoslav Slobodan President Milosevic and U.S. envoy Richard Holbrooke is on the verge of falling apart.
Following the rebel attacks, a top Serbian offi-

"energetic and efficient action" to "normalise the situation" in Kosovo. The attacks have alarmed the province's minority Serb population. Thursday.

Odalovic, told the govern-

Serb crowds blocked all roads into Pristina. Under the October agreement, ethnic Albanians and Serbs were to have begun negotiations on the future

of the province. But no

Hindu militant chief, bodyguard

been held, and both sides ment's Tanjug news agency bave rejected American that security forces will use proposals for expanded "energetic and efficient self-rule.

Ethnic Albanians form about 90 per cent of the 2 million people in Kosovo. and most want independence. The Americans and Europeans bave rejected independence, fearing it could lead to similar demands by ethnic Albanian communities elsewbere in the southern

#### trading. Officials were not available Saturday to-provide further details. Children's rights campaigners last year reported an alarming increase in the inci-dence of child slavery cases, linked to rising poverty China jails tobacco tycoon for life

BEIJING (AFP) - A Chinese court has sentenced a tobacco tycoon to life imprisonment for corruption Xinhua news agency said Saturday. Chu Shijian, former chairman and president of China's biggest tobacco company. Hongta (Group) Co Ltd, was sentenced by the Yunnan Provincial Higher People's Court. Chu was guilty of embezzlement and owning hige amounts of property without clear sources, the agency said. China's leadership is cracking down on top-level graft, with the arrest of two top anti-smug-gling officials on suspicion of corruption. Informed Chinese sources say one of the country's top five police officers was detained for graft in mid-December, around the time Premier Zhu Rongji told Communist Party officials the leadership was pre-pared to "kill, kill, kill" to make an example of highranking corrupt officials. Hongta produces the Hongtashan cigarette, which is regarded as the best of the domestically produced brands.

#### Murder brings Milan's 1999 total to eight

MILAN, Italy (AFP) - The murder of a man at dawn Saturday in the northern city of Milan brought to eight the number gunned down this month in a bloody settling of gangland accounts, police said. Three other people, whom initial reports identified as Croas close to the city's criminal gangs, were injured one of them seriously in a separate shooting overnight in a bar in Milan, the economic hub of Italy. Police were still trying to identify the murder victim early Saturday. Investigators said the man bad been shot in his apartment before fleeing in a stolen car, but collapsed and later died in bospital. A total of 41 people were slain between December 23 and January 6 in ... -Italy. Victims outside Milan include a policeman \_\_killed in car bomb explosion, a priest mardered on slain in a bar in Sicily an unristmas Eve. five an eight-year-old girl killed by a 16-year-old boy. Gangland settling of accounts have left eight dead in Campania in the south, two in Puglia in the southeast and two others in Calabria in the south. In all, 802 people were murdered in the country between January and November last year, the interior ministry UDDA

#### Five die as car plunges off French holiday island bridge

LA ROCHE-SUR-YON, France (AFP) - A driver and four passengers died overnight when their car plunged off a bridge connecting the popular boliday island of Noirmoutier with the French mainland, police said Saturday. The car, a Peugeot 405, smashed through a barrier and fell 15 metres onto a parking area before bursting into flames. The five young vio tims are yet to be named but police believe they were local residents.

#### 38 killed in Georgia bus crash

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MOSCOW (AFP) - All 38 people aboard a bus which plunged into a ravine near Georgia's border with Russia Friday were killed, ITAR-TASS news agency reported Saturday, quoting the Russian ministry for emergencies. An earlier toll said 25 people were killed, but ITAR-TASS said that searches at the scene revealed that the bus had been carrying more passengers than was first thought. The bus was travelling through mountainous terrain on roads 2,500 metres above sea level towards a border crossing point near the village of Kazbegi when it came off the road and plummeted some 250 metres. The vehicle was bound for Vladikavkaz in the southern Russian republic of North Ossetia. ITAR-TASS reported that several of the passengers were returning home to Vladikavkaz from a funeral in Georgia. More than 100 rescuers from Georgia and Russia, beaded by emergencies minister Sergei Shoygu, went to the scene. Interfax news agency said 28 of the dead had so far been identified. All the victims were Russian. 20 of them women.

#### Popeye weds Olive — sort of

NEW YORK (AP) - After 70 years. Popeye is final ly tying the knot with Olive Oyl. Just not real right "This story is a one-shot fantasy." Claudia Smith of King Features Syndicate said of "The Wedding of Popeye and Olive." The special-edition comic book is now in production at Ocean Comics, an independent company under contract to King. In the official comic strip, the spinach-munching sailor remains "part of an eternal triangle, forever," said Ms. Smith, referring w Popeye, Olive and Popeye's longtime nemesis, Bluto The eternal bachelor will keep his catch-phrase yam what I yam," and he'll keep cackling his long time line, "Next time I'm in port, we'll get married. Popeye first met the stick-thin Olive in 1929, when he discovered the stowaway aboard his ship Ocean Comics publisher Bob Palin will be shipping thou sands of the new Popeye comic books to wbolesalers next month, to be distributed to retailers. What inspired him to spin new life into an old tale? The bottom line is — the bottom line. "I really liked the character. And I thought I could sell some copyage we did a wedding," said Palin. Plus, "I think marriage left left of the lef

# U.S. envoy sees progress in nuclear talks with India

Diplomatic talks to narrow between Washington, and .. New Delhi after India's nuclear tests last year, are likely to vield an understanding between the two nations, the U.S. ambassador to

India said Saturday. U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott and Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee's special envoy, Jaswant Singh, have held several rounds of talks since India's stunning series of nuclear explosions last May.

"My hope and expectation is that it will lead to what Mr. Jaswant Singh calls a harmonisation of views... (and) I hope in my view in the not so distant Ambassador future. Richard Celeste told a seminar on Indo-U.S. rela-

Singh, who is also foreign minister, and Talbott are scheduled to hold another round of arms control talks later this month. The United States

rival Pakistan after the two nations staged rival nuclear tests in the same month... The sanctions have been partially lifted.

"I would bope that down the line the sanctions are completely lifted," Celeste said.

The sensitive negotiations have been stalled over the details of U.S. efforts to persuade India to sign a global test ban treaty and join the nuclear nonproliferation regime.

India says it is willing to negotiate its signature into the test ban treaty but differences remain on how to go about it.

New Delhi insists on a "minimum nuclear deterrence" while Washington wants India to hold off its missile development programme and cut off its nuclear weapons material

U.S. officials say they are bound by law to maintain the sanctions, which they see as a hindrance to trade.

tions on India and arcb- the path of growing business between the two

"Sanctions are not intended to promote business. In fact they interrupt business," Celeste said.

telecommunications and technology-driven industries were key areas in which the United States eyed strong bilateral trade relations.

He said that research and development relations had grown irrespective of what happened in the past six months or one year." Bilateral trade between the U.S. and India grew to \$10.94 billion in 1997 from \$5.2 billion in 1991, when India began its economic reform programme.

Indian exports accounted for \$7.32 billion while its imports from the U.S. accounted for \$3.62 billion in 1997..

Celeste said two-way trade in 1998 was estimated to be at least \$11.0 billion in spite of a sluggish trade environment.

#### Republic Day functions and their insurgency against Indian tule in 1989. day as a "Black Day." The police spokesman said two militants were killed in a gunbattle with Indian solrillas in the Indian sector. diers in the border town of

Kashmir overnight Friday. He said one of the mem-

lined up to vote Saturday for state governors and assemblies in elections which mark the latest step in the military's plan to restore democracy.

in the polls in 36 states. The elections are a prelude to votes in February for a national assembly and for a president to take over when General Abdulsalami Abubakar steps down in May, ending more than 15 years of

In Lagos, Nigeria's out soon after 8 a.m.

LAGOS (R) - Nigerians officials from the commission and the three parties have been deployed to ensure a fair vote.

> The centrist Peoples position after councils.

by politicians who opposed the late dictator Sani Abacha's bid to remain in power before his death in June made way for Abubakar, a softspoken career soldier.

did well enough in December to qualify for state and national elec-The right-of-centre All

People's Party, dubbed the "Abacha Peoples Party by its detractors because of the presence of former Abacha supporters among its leaders. came a distant second in December.

Alliance for Democracy is expected to sweep the vote in its southwestern ethnic Yoruba heartland but make little impact elsewhere.

Because of the local importance of governors. who control a significant share of Oil revenues distributed by the national

rivalry has been intense and at times violent.

"It is my duty to warn all troublemakers to think again and desist from anything that will disrupt transition," said spokesman Ibrahim Danjuma in Abuja.

Election officials say results are not likely to be collated until at least Sunday. Teams of international

observers from the United Nations. Commonwealth and other bodies bave arrived to help local observers monitor implementation of Abubakar's democracy

in southern Bayelsa State will insecurity prevent a ballot, following protests by ethnic Ijaw youths demanding a greater share of the region's oil wealth. Up to 26 were killed last weekend as troop reinforcements quelled the unrest.

There is no election in the capital Abuja, which is headed by a government minister rather than a governor.

Nigerians have gone through numerous attempts to end military rule but civilians have held power for only 10 years since independence

#### Celeste said sanctions imposed economic sancwere clearly an obstacle in Bail denied for two men in alleged forced-marriage case

BUFFALO, New York (AP) — Two men accused of trying tn smuggle a bnund-and-gagged

wnman across the U.S. border in a frigid car trunk were denied bail Friday as family members disputed her claim of heing forced into an arranged marriage.

A federal magistrate ruled that Afghanistan natives Jamal Nasser Aziz, 37, of Toronto, and Wahid Nader, 29, nf San Francisco, are a danger to the woman, Mine Betoor.

Aziz, Ms. Betoor's uncle. and Nader, her would-be husband, face kidnapping and smuggling charges. Immigration agents dis-

covered Ms. Betoor at the Rainbow Bridge in Niagara Falls on Jan. 1. Authorities said her hands and feet had heen bound. a scarf was placed in her mnuth and she had been in the trunk 2 1/2 hours.

Ms. Betoor, whose age was not released, tald authorities she was trying to escape the Dec. 29 marriage in Thronto when Aziz and Nader knocked her unconscious. She said she was held more than twn days in the basement nf her uncle's home hefore being put in the trunk, where she was joined hy Nader. She said Aziz threatened to kill her if she made a nnise.

In arguing against bail, federal prosecutars said Ms. Betnnr fears for her life because her family supports the men. Relatives claimed she is

Aziz's brother. Abdul Aziz, and a cousin whn would not give his name, said Ms. Betoor and Nader had been married

since 1994. They showed what appeared to be a marriage certificate from Pakistan and photos of Ms. Betoor and Nader tngether.

claimed Ms. Betoor, living in Canada since 1995, wanted to see the United States. They said Ms. Betoor made op the arranged marriage

claim so she wouldn't get in trouble if caught, and that they were told she wanted to he gagged in case she panicked and screamed at the border.

Attnrneys for Aziz and Nader said they were still snrting nut details and could not confirm the "It would be unusual for

an alien to want to be smuggled in bound and gagged," said assistant U.S. Attnrney Trini Ross. "Common sense says

that makes absolutely no sense." And whether the couple really are married is irrelevant because a spouse has no authority to kidnap another spouse, she said. Nader, a naturalised

American citizen, was convicted last year of assaulting Ms. Betoor. Aziz, a naturalised Canadian citizen, was convicted in 1996 of aiding and abetting people whn illegally entered

#### among 9 killed in Kashmir fighting for an independent bers was an informer to the SRINAGAR, India (AFP) — Suspected Muslim sepahomeland in the disputed Indian army. ratists shot dead a provincial Kashmir, claimed leader of a Hindu militant India and Pakistan. Kashmir, claimed by both The spokesman added security troops have stepped up "search operations" group and his bodyguard in a Kashmir India's only the troubled state of Kashmir, Muslim-majority state, bas across the region ahead of

police said Saturday.

Abdul Rashid Wani, Kashmir chief of firebrand Hindu leader Bal Thackeray's Shiv Sena party. which has threatened to disrupt a bus service and a cricket match between India and Pakistan, was gunned down in northern Sonawari village. a police spokesman said.

"A policeman was seriously injured in the shooting. They ambushed Wani's convov and both of them died on the spot," the spokesman

Muslim separatists are

been the cause of two of the three wars between the two arch South Asian rivals.

More than 24,000 people have been killed in the state since the rebels launched

Kupwara while five members of a family, including two women, were gunned down by the militants in nonhem

issued a call to observe the

India accuses Pakistan of arming and training the guer-Islamabad denies the

India's Republic Day on Jan.

Muslim guerrilla groups

have vowed to disrupt the

charge but says it gives diplomatic and moral support to what it calls the Kashmiris' legitimate struggle for selfdetermination.

# Nigerians queue to vote in key state poll

Three parties compete army rule in Africa's

most populous nation. biggest city, voters turned (0700 GMT) 10 get voters' cards stamped ahead of the ballot which begins at 11:30 a.m.

"We are seeing a great deal of enthusiasm here. Everything is orderly and voters are coming more quickly than they have done in previous polls." Sola Fayewumi of the Independent National Electoral Commission told Reuters in central

The commission has promised to deal with logistical problems which were criticised during government elections in December that were given a generally clean bill of health. More than half a million

Democratic Party is hoping to consolidate its December vote in which it won control of 60 per cent of Nigeria's local The party was formed

Only two other parties

from Britain in 1960.

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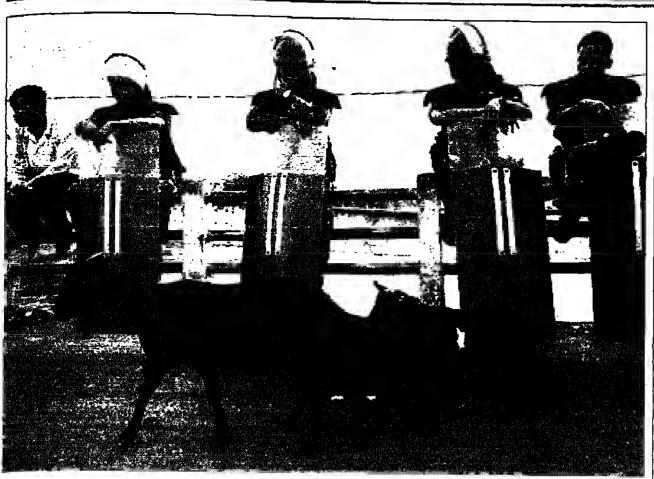
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Goats walk in front of a group of Indonesian soldiers in full anti-riot gear guarding a hridge one day after massive riots hit the West Java city of Karawang, some 80 km from Jakarta. Security forces were reinforced throughout the city after two were killed when police opened fire to stem rioting and looting (AFP photo)

# Indonesian town tense, patrolled by army after riot

JAKARTA (AFP) — Army troops patrolled the streets of Karawang town east of here Saturday a day after rioting and looting left two dead when police opened fire to the violence, residents

"It's not settled down yet. r od u manada There are lots of army troops Malan brough out on the streets," a security guard at a Bank Central Asia office in Karawang, 80 kilomerres east of Jakarta, said by dentified to (s

> The bank, like others in the town, was shut, the guard told

> He said that while people .were\_on the streets, buses were not running and the only public transport was pedicabs and motor-cycle taxis.

A resident source identified the army troops as from the West Java command and said police were absent from the

unavailable for comment, but the private SCTV television quoted Karawang district police chief Lieutenant Colonel Achmad Hidayat as saying 58 youths had been detained for questioning.

Police spokesmen were

SCTV put the number of seriously injured at 14, with a further 15 slightly injured in Friday's violence.

A security guard at Karawang hospital, Dedeng, said 31 people had been treated, two of whom had died and 10 suffering serious injuries from bullets or rocks. Dedeng said an 18-year-old

youth died of a gunshot wound in the chest when police troops opened fire to try to control the mobs, while a second man had died after suffering gunshoot wounds to the rocks, and the crowd, dis-

He identified the second vic- fired into their midst, the night, then erupted again tim as Udin bin Sali, a shop-regrouped nearby and began Friday.

"He was just passing by on his way home, he was not involved in the riot at all," Dedeng told AFP. At the private Dewi Sri hos-

pital, an information office clerk, Nunung, said the hospital had treated five riot victims as outpatients and admitted two others, one of whom had already been released.

The day-long riot Friday, the worst in Indonesia since the start of the year, degenerated into looting and vandalising of shops and churches.

Police fired several times in attempts to control the mob.

The violence erupted after a mob of thousands gathered early in the day and moved to attack the local police station. The station was pelted with

persed with warning shots

The crowd rampaged down the main shop-lined streets, stoning buildings, including three churches, smashing flower pots, and dragging furniture into the street and burn-

to pelt shops and businesses.

Hundreds of shops, showrooms, malls and shopping centres, four police posts and a sub-district police station were damaged by the mob. Colonel Hidayat told the Antara news

One car was also set on fire, the private radio Sonora said. Lieutenant Colonel Saleh of the national police information office in Jakarta said Friday the trouble had started Thursday over the rumoured harsh ticketing of a motorcycle taxi.

The protests swelled during Thursday, simmered during

# Cuba rejects U.S. embargo steps as cynical stunt

rejected Washington's adjustments this week to parts of its 37year embargo on Cuba as a publicity stunt that disguises a den behande new "attack" on the island as an apparent easing of restric-

communist government's pointman on U.S. relations, Ricardo Alarcon, said believe liet. late Friday the measures were a "desperate manoeuvre" intended to stem the growing a bus crash "sea" of international and domestic opposition to sanc-

tions on the Caribbean island.

I am sure our entire people

are going to reject this new phase of the war on Cuba ... a new attack in the political and deological sphere." Alarcon said in a two-hour address on state television which wound up shortly before midnight. There is no significant change. These measures make me laugh because they seem like a joke," added Alarcon, who is president of the local legislature and a close ally of President Fidel

A Charles May He was giving Cuba's formal response to President Bill announcement

HAVANA (R) — Havana has Tuesday of changes to the counter-revolutionary embargo regulations. These included easing restrictions on travel and remittances and promoting people-to-people

> in brief comments to reporters earlier Friday, Economy Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez described the moves as "crumbs" which did not alter U.S. policy of "harassment" against Cuba.

> Washington, at odds with Havana since shortly after Castro's 1959 revolution, presented the moves as aimed at helping the Cuban people strengthening without Castro's government.

> Alarcon, lacing his speech with irony, refuted each of the five main steps in Washington's "supposed flexibilisation." He argued that: Permission for any U.S. resident, not just family members of Cubans, to send up to \$1,200 a year to individuals, is really intended to let more money reach "counter-revolutionary traitors", while doing nothing to ease an unfair discrimination on Cuban immigrants wanting to send more

Havana uses terms such as

describe dissidents.

- Allowing direct U.S.-Cuba charter flights from routes other than Miami-Havana is a measure already agreed last year but repackaged to sound new.

- Reestablishing a direct mail service, which the United States unilaterally suspended, runs the risk, as in the past, of allowing anri-Castro "terrorists" send letter-bombs.

- Permitting the sale of U.S. food and agricultural supplies to non-governmental bodies has "nothing to do with humanitarian concern" but is rather "a weapon to promote subversion and undermine the revolution." Alarcon made clear that authorines would not expect any organisation in Cuba to make such purchases.

— Announcing that the Baltimore Orioles hasehall team may be allowed to play exhibition games with the Cuban national squad covers up how U.S. authorities have turned the Orioles into "the champions of waiting" after so far "sabotaging" their three-year anempt to have the games staged.

Alarcon, tipped by some as

a possible successor to the 72year-old Castro or member of a future joint leadership, noted dryly Washington's simultaneous rejection on Tuesday of proposals to set up a bipartisan committee to review Cuba

That, he said, showed clearly the U.S. intention to stick to the embargo despite rising world opposition. Alarcon cited Pope John Paul's qualificarion last January of economic sanctions as "unjust and ethically unacceptable" and also noted this year's seventh successive U.N. General Assembly condemnation of the U.S. embargo on Cuba.

The fact that anti-Castro lohbyists such as the Miamibased Cuban American National Foundation had welcomed the U.S. steps also showed their real intention. Alarcon said. "It's a public relations manoeuvre in which the (U.S.) government tries to gain credit without doing anything." Cuba says the U.S. embargo has cost it \$60 hillion since its implementation. Washington argues the sanctions are a means of isolating and pressuring Castro to introduce democratic reforms.

# Teen couple's troubled romance ends in tragedy

CARROLLTON. Georgia (AP) - A high school where an apparent doublesuicide attempt left a teenage girl dead and her boyfriend seriously wounded invited grief counsellors to campus Saturday to help their shocked classmates.

The shootings in a Central Fiday killed 15-year-old High School bathroom A THE STREET ed Jeff Miller, 17. Parents and fellow students were

They said all the colour

went out of me; I got weak in the knees," said Joani Osteon. a parent who rushed to the school after word of the violence spread through the west Georgia

town of 17,000. "You see it on TV all the time, but not here."

Fellow students said the young couple had been having problems, and that Ms. Garrett was under pressure from her parents to end the

Miller recently had said that he "wouldn't be here

much longer," said Tiffany Osteen, 17.

"We thought it was just all talk," said Ms. Smith, who was in the marching band with Andrea. "Young love, you know." But shortly after school started Friday, a janitor found the couple shot in a girls' bathroom.

Ms. Garrett died at Tanner Medical Centre. Miller was airlifted in critical condition to Crawford Long Hospital in Atlanta, about 65 km to the east. At the family's request, hospital officials declined to give undates on the boy's condi-

"This apparently was something that was agreed upon by the two kids," said Carroll County Sheriff Tony Reeves. They chose to do this for whatever reason at the school."

The weapon was a .22calibre pistol that was taken from a locked safe belonging to the girl's parents. Investigators were trying to determine who fired the

# Malaysian opposition questions PM's choice of successor

KUALA LUMPUR (AP) and declared him morally Saturday criticised Prime Minister Mohamad's announcement of his hand-picked successor, calling it "a desperate exercise" to regain public

In a massive cabinet reshuffle late Friday, Mahathir named Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, 59, as his deputy and also appointed him home minister, a key position which Malaysian premiers have traditionally kept to themselves.

Drowned in the hubbub of in all - was the fact that Minister a Mahathir took on a few months ago after sacking his former deputy prime minister, Anwar Ibrahim,

Anwar lost both posts

Opposition leaders unfit to remain in govern-

Mahathir confidence in his govern-

announcements - there were 13 new appointments Mahathir also named Daim Zainuddin as Finance position

when Mahathir fired him Sept. 2 amid a flurry of sexual misconduct allegations

Mahathir was quoted as saying Saturday by the news agency national Bernama that it is "normal practice" for Abdullah to succeed him as prime minister, but cast some doubt on whether that would hap-

"Normally, the deputy becomes my successor. But I had three who didn't ... Nowadays, it's difficult to say. I'm scared to say," Mahathir said.

Opposition leaders, who have had little political clout during Mahathir's 17year rule, doubted the reshuffle was an attempt to distribute power more equally in his cabinet.

'He will not succeed in deceiving the public into believing that power is now no more concentrated in his hands," Syed Husin Ali, president of the opposition Malaysian People's Party, said Šaturday.

"In reality, the PM will

continue to dominate the cabinet," he said. "The cabinet reshuffle appears to be a desperate exercise to regain public confidence in him and the government he

Mahathir's administration has been in turmoil since he sacked Anwar. After leading massive anti-government protests, the former deputy was arrested and beaten while in police custody, causing an interna-

tional outery. The beating sparked calls hy opposition and human rights activists for Mahathir to relinquisb the bome min-

ister's job. The home minister is in charge of police.

Amid such controversy, many now believe that Mahathir's anointed successor, Abdullah, known as "Mr. Clean" among politicians, is the best compromisc for preparing UMNO for general elections that must be held by April 2000.

A long-time loyalist in the United Malays National Organisation laud-Mahathir's moves, which were announced to reporters after a meeting of the 53-member UMNO Supreme Council,

"As home minister, he controlled the police and all the other intelligence agencies," the legislator said, speaking on condition of anonymity for fear of repercussions.

"It's a critical position which he has given up," he

"That's a sure sign Mahathir's bracing to step down, though he won't abruptly resign." The Coalition for People's Democracy said the reshuffled cabinet further erodes confidence in the govern-

The coalition which is made up of 25 non-governmental organisations and opposition parties said in a statement that Abdullah "does not seem to have sufficient strength to halance domination

# Lott promises fair Clinton impeachment trial

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. Senate will conduct President Bill Clinton's impeachment trial with "decency and decorum," Majority Leader Trent Lott said Saturday, adding Americans would be proud of Congress whatever the out-

The Mississippi Republican praised the spirit of bipartisanship that allowed the Senate to agree to a plan for proceeding with the trial, which adjourned after its ceremonial opening Thursday.

The format allows for the possibility of calling witnesses and would have the trial resume next week.

"All week we had seemed hopelessly divided," Lott said in the Republican response to Clinton's weekly radio address. "But after listening to one another, speaking face to face, we came together in the last 15 minutes of our meeting." On a unanimous vote Friday, all 100 senators approved a road map for the

majority Senate vote to approve them.

The dispute over witnesses had sharply divided the Senate, as Democrats said the live testimooy requested by House of Representatives Republicans could spark a prolonged and bitter trial.

"In fairness, the Senate should have the opportunity to call witnesses if a majority of senators believe that is necessary to reach an impartial judgment," Lott said.

The agreement followed a rare two-hour informal closed session of senators from both parties in the Old Senate Chamber, down a Capitol hallway from where arguments will begin in the first presidential impeachment trial

in more than 130 years. Clinton is accused of perjury and obstruction of justice stemming from his effort to cover up a sexual relationship with Monica Lewinsky, a former White House intern.

A two-thirds vote of sena-

until late January and require a from office, which at this point is considered unlikely.

Throughout this process, we will insist on the highest standards of decency and decorum, not only in the Senate chamber itself, but in and around the Capitol," Lott

Despite predictions that the trial could paralyse legislative business in Congress, Lott told Americans: "The nation's other priorities are going to move ahead."

"Our committees will be meeting. Bills are being drafted as I speak. Hearings have already been held," he said. Lott said lawmakers were

ready to debate reform of the budget process, social security and tax relief for working families. "I believe that, when this is

all over, no matter what the outcome, you will be proud of your Senate - and prouder still that our system of government is able to handle even this momentous matter with civility, order and fairness."

ing a child with the HIV virus really puts you in the same category as the worst war criminal," Cundiff said. 'I helieve when God finally calls you, you are going to hurn in hell from here to

Prosecutors Stewart was trying to avoid child-support payments. Stewart, who worked as a hospital technician at the time, stole the blood from his workplace, prosecutors said.

At the sentencing, the boy's mother, identified only as Jennifer, tearfully read a statement from the boy in which he said: "I feel mad. I think he shouldn't ever be out of jail. He shouldn't have done this. Why did he do such a bad thing to me?" Stewart's Joseph Murphy, said he

already filed an appeal. "He's innocent." Murphy The defence contended the hoy could have contracted the virus a num-

her of other ways. However, the boy had never had a blood transfusion, and a medical exam found no evidence of sexual abuse.

#### trial that would postpone decitors would be required to convict Clinton and remove him sions on calling witnesses Pessimism pervades Colombian peace talks

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP) -The hemisphere's most powerful rebel delivered a stern, vague warning to Colombia's government a day after shunning the inauguration of peace talks because of what his deputies called assassination attempt

"We will remain in a fighting stance and will not give in to pressure from any system that has imposed violence and terror on us," Manuel Marulanda said in a short news video made during a meeting Friday in a jungle hideout with Daniel Ortega, the former Nicaraguan president and Sandinista rebel leader.

It was the first time in several years that the country had heard the voice of Marulanda, the hemisphere's oldest active rebel. In the video, shown by NCA television, Ortega pins a medal on Marulanda's camouflage fatigues.

A late-model sport utility vehicle, which the rebels periodically commandeer at roadblocks, was parked behind them. Also Friday, the federal

ombudsman's office, a government agency that protects human rights, said it relayed letters and photos from the rebels that prove 126 soldiers and police captured last August are still alive. The rebels, who captured the

troops when they overran a govemment anti-narcotics base, want to trade more than 300 prisoners for 452 jailed com-

The four government-appointed delegates, a powerful businessman, a former foreign min-

ister, a state governor and the president of the senate, planned to meet the three FARC negotiarumed back. tors - all high-level comman-

and timetable for peace talks. Sources close to the process said Marulanda would not parucipate in those negotiations, but would likely be present during separate talks on the proposed prisoner swaps that are to begin

ders - at an isolated location

Sanarday to discuss an agenda

Jan. 20. The parleys are being held in the rebel-controlled region that President Andres Pastrana cleared of government troops as a condition for launching the third peace dialogue with the FARC in its 34-year struggle

against the state. Marulanda's deputies say he skipped Thursday's ceremony with Pastrana the town of San Vicente del Caguan because rebel intelligence indicated an attempt on his life was afoot.

His absence, and the harsh.

unconciliatory tone of a speecb read in Manulanda's name by a guerrilla negotiator at Thursday's talks, embarrassed Pastrana before a national television audience and international dignitaries.

The 68-year-old rebel chief has been hiding in the mountains for most of the past halfcentury and has never appeared in such a public forum. Some speculated that stage fright was behind his failure to show.

But Ortega insisted it was because the rebels, also known as FARC, had credible information that Marulanda might have been in danger. Several news reports said Marulanda was 10 minutes away by car when he

According to a poll published Friday in the El Espectador newspaper, there is deep public scepticism about prospects for peace.

Half of Colombians ques-

tioned believe the peace talks will drag on indefinitely. Another 27 per cent believe the talks are leading nowhere, and only 23 per cent believe they will result in peace. The survey of 600 adults in five major cines, conducted

Wednesday by the National

Consulting Centre, had a margin of error of 4 percentage points. Rebel security remained right in San Vicente del Caguan, where more than 2,000 FARC guerrillas had patrolled the streets and access routes for Thursday's ceremony, rebel sharpshooters sharing rooftop perches with Pastrana's police

security squad. Security is the main worry of rebel leaders as they launch the talks, and they are demanding that their landowner-backed night-wing paramilitary foes be disarmed as a first condition for serious negotiations.

At least 22 people were killed in several attacks in the northern state of Antioquia that coincided with Thursday's inauguration and were blamed by police on paramilitary fighters.

Paramilitary groups, formed more than a decade ago as a response to guerrilla kidnappings and extortion, often target civilians they suspect of collaborating with the rebels.

# Man sentenced to life in prison for injecting his son with HIV virus

ST. CHARLES, Missouri (AP) — An American man who injected his son with the AIDS virus to avoid paying child support has been sentenced to life in prison by a judge who warned he is going to "burn in hell

from here to eternity." Brian Stewart, 32, of Columbia, Illinois, stared straight ahead as Judge Ellsworth Cundiff handed down the maximum seotence Friday for firstdegree assault. He would be eligible for parole in 15 years. The judge said he wished the sentence could have been tougher.

"My thought is injecteternity."

Stewart was convicted Dec. 6 of injecting AIDStainted blood into the boy, who was then 11 months old, during a hospital visit in 1992. The child, now 7, was diagnosed with AIDS in 1996. If the boy dies, Stewart could be tried for murder.

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# Time to re-examine Iraq file

AS RUSSIA spearheads a call for the resignation of UNSCOM Chairman Richard Butler, following revelations that UNSCOM precipitated the December U.S. and British strikes against Iraq, Washington prepares itself to live without UNSCOM. The U.S. said Friday that it no longer insists on the reactivation of UNSCOM and would rely on other means to keep tahs on Iraq's weapons programmes. UNSCOM and its chairman have made the limelight in recent days when it was found that they compromised not only their own integrity but also that of the U.N. hy spying for the CIA and other intelligence services.

Former Deputy Chairman of UNSCOM Scott Ritter's actions were the first to raise doubt about the legitimacy of UNSCOM when be was caught cooperating with Israel's Mossad. Ritter later accused UNSCOM's chairman of deliberately engineering last month's attacks on Iraq. Ever since more and more evidence has surfaced implicating UNSCOM and its leadership with complicity in supplying the CIA with intelligence reports about Iraq.

On the strength of what we know already, the military strikes against Baghdad were clearly unwarranted. That Washington and London exploited and used UNSCOM in order to achieve certain military and political objectives makes them suspect, and both capitals stand accused of fahricating and manipulating information or spreading disinformation to legitimise their joint efforts to terminate the ruling Iraqi regime.

As Paris, Moscow and Beijing have concluded, we now have a new hall game over the Iraqi conflict and a fresh start is certainly called for. What is still ominously missing is a collective Arah voice demanding the rectification of the grave errors committed against Iraq as a country and people. The least that we may expect is Arah insistence on the resignation of Bntler and the reconstitution of the U.N. weapons inspection team in Iraq on more solid ground. The international community is up in arms over the shocking revelations about the true mission of UNSCOM. Arah silence could ultimately compromise the various Arah regimes which stood solidly behind the military strikes against Iraq. With Iraq now also questioning the legitimacy of the no-fly zones imposed hy Washington and London, the stage is set for a new appraisal of the entire Iraqi file. Arab capitals should make themselves heard on the side of what is right and what is not, and hecome an integral part of the awaited review.

#### ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

Al Ra'i's Fahed Fanek said analysts supported the ootioo that U.S. Presideot Bill Clinton's visit to the Palestinian National Authority areas aimed to save his presidency by diverting attention from the Lewinsky's scandal and to find a solution to the deadlocked peace process. However, Clinton failed to achieve anything because the Wye River Accord and entire peace process bas been frozen by an official Israeli decision. And when Clinton returned to Washington, impeachment was waiting for him anyways. It has been proven that Clinton's "kindness" to the Palestinians during his trip was only a pacification en route to attacking Iraq. He gave that "concession" only after his advisors told him that the Arab people will be against the aggression, not because they sympathise with Iraq, but because they are fed up with U.S. double standards in dealing with Israel, said the writer. Even that goal. Clinton has failed, said Fanek

Al Dustour's editorial said the accusation that UNSCOM are spies is no longer an Iraq accusation, but a serious case debated by the international community. Recent information reported by global media quoting intelli-gence and former UNSCOM officials articulated the how international committee used legitimate resolutions to interfere in U.N. members' affairs. The spying scandal requires the U.N. to reclaim its role in the Iraqi crisis, said the newspaper, adding that the international body must end the U.S. domination of the world. Washington has not withdrawn from its stubborn position after these oews reports. To the contrary, it maintains an aggressive stance towards Iraq, threatening to attack again after the Holy Month of Ramadan. Al Dustour condemned the U.N. and UNSCOM's involvement in spying missions against an independent state, and called on Arabs to unify their actions to stop this violation of international laws and principles and to confront a possible strike on Iraq.

# Privatisation needs political will

THE LIST of enterprises eovisaged by the privatisation programme in Jordan is very short indeed. The programme can be carried out io a relatively short period of time, unlike Egypt where the privatisation programme needs many years before Egypt can fully shift from the public to the private sector as far as ownership and management of buodreds of companies and corporations are concerned.

If the Egyptian privatisation programme continues at its preseot pace, it will need some 35 more years. By contrast, the Jordanian privatisatioo programme does oot need more than one to three years of hard work.

The private sector in Jordan has always been alive. We are not about to create a new private sector. All that we need is to encourage, motivate, and iovigorate our existing private sector to play its role fully.

The economic activities currently carried out by the Jordanian public sector are limited. Such activities, which are eligible for privatisation, contribute no more than 6 per ceot of the gross domestic product (GDP). Such activities can be turned over to the private sector without major consequences and without hurting the present shareholders, employees, or customers, as was proved beyond doubt upon the privatisation of the Jordan Cement Factories Company (JCFC), which was operationally smooth and financially beoeficial

to all parties concerned. The privatisation programme includes hotels. The Jordan Inter.Continental Hotel was privatised two years ago, in a transaction that secured the treasury eight times its original investment. The immediate result was the expansion of the hotel's capacity and the doubling of

jobs. What remains is the Mai'n resort hotel, the privatisation of which is supposed to take place within weeks. This will put an end to the financial attritioo, create a real international resort. triple the number of staff, and generate more tourists especially from Europe. The government still holds a

big chunk of sbares in several large and medium size companies, a state of affairs which came about because the government was trying to save the companies concerned, and inject them with badly needed cash io order to survive. Since those circumstances changed, the withdrawal of the government from these companies became oot only possible but also desirable. The JCFC was a good example of what to expect following the sale of government shares either to the private sector or to a strategic partner. The government received

Sunday's **Economic Pulse** 



Dr. Fahed Fanek

a lot of mooey, the value of sbares rose drastically in the market which benefited shareholders. the employees benefited as they could sbares at reduced prices. and the company embarked oo a meaniogful modernisation programme.

In the area of transport, the pri-

vatisation of the Public Transport Corporation was recently completed. The remaining bus routes were granted to qualified private sector operators, which in turn will replace the present obsolete. and dangerous buses without any cost to the tax payers. The privatised routes will need more drivers and other supporting staff, and the government's role will sbift from that of a bad transport operator to that of a good transport regulator. Needless to say, the public will get better service.

On the privatisation hit list are: The Agaba Railway Corporation, The Royal Jordanian Airline, Jordan Water Authority. National Electricity Compaoy, and Jordan

The privatisation of these enterprises will be good news for the treasury, the national economy, and the public at large. All that is needed, and bopefully not lacking, is the political will.



# On the legality of the no-fly zones in Iraq

By Pascal B. Karmy

JAMES RUBIN, spokesman of the State Department very recently stated that the no-fly zones in the north and south of Iraq were established by virtue of Security Couocil resolutions pertinent to Iraq. It is as a coosequence of these resolutions, in other words, that the United States and its coalition allies (with the probable urging of the extremist Shiites in the south and the Kurds in the oorth), came up with the plan of establishing air-exclusion zones, in which the flight of Iraqi aircraft including helicopters is prohibit-

However, it must be admitted that the creation of no-fly zones is not supported or legalised by any clear and concrete Security Council resolution on Iraq, even if the Security Council resolutions oo Iraq are liberally interpreted. Indeed it is the result of the containment policy of the United States rather than the result of any Security Council resolutioo. As the White House spokesman Joe Lockhart stated a few days ago, the no-fly zones "are an important part of our containment limiting Saddam Hussein's ability to threaten his neighbours and repress his

own people". Thus the establishment of no-fly zones in Iraq does not fall within the ambit of the enforcement measures imposed upon Iraq under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter, and consequently the establishment of those zones and the sbooting down of any Iraqi aircraft which flies over those zones constitute an interference in the internal affairs of Iraq and a flagrant violation of the United Nations Charter provisions. Paragraph 4 of Article 2 of the U.N. Charter provides as follows:

"All members shall refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state, or in any other manner inconsistent with the purpose of the United Nations."

Paragraph 7 of the same article reads as follows: "Nothing cootained in the present Charter shall authorise the United Nations to intervene in matters which are essentially within the domestic jurisdiction of any state or shall require the members to submit such matters to settlement under the

present charter; but this principle shall not prejudice the application of enforcement measures under Chapter

And as stated above, the enforcement measure imposed upon Iraq under Chapter VII does not entitle the United

'With regard to the Kurds, the Iraqi government has long ago recognised them as an entity as well as their language and culture, unlike the Kurds in Turkey... Why does not the United States try to help the Kurds in Turkey?'

States and its coalition partners to establisb air-exclusion zones. Apart from the illegality of the air-exclusion zones, it is in itself a dangerous precedent especially in the mosaic states of the Middle East.

The establishment of the air-exclusion zones is allegedly grounded in the fact that the Shiites in the south and the Kurds in the north are being persecuted by the Iraqi regime. An observer, however, may rightly wonder why the United States have not tried to create separate zones in the West Bank and Gaza Strip under the umbrella of the United Nations so as to protect the Palestinians from the savage treatment of the occupying power, as provided in Geneva Convention IV of 1949 regarding the protection of civilians. How has the conscience of the United States and its coalition allies been awakened to protect the Shiites and the Kurds from their own government, yet remains in the doldrums as far as the Palestinians

The Shiites are a part and parcel of Iraq since the advent of Islam in the 7th century A.D. They enjoy rights and privileges on the same footing as other

are concerned?

Iraqi citizens. They participate in Iraqi politics as members of parliament or in government and many of them have beeo ministers and prime ministers. If dictatorial or despotic rule prevails in Iraq, it is applicable across the board and not necessarily aimed at the Shiites only. With regard to the Kurds, the fraqi governmeot has long ago recognised them as an entity as well as their language and culture, unlike the Kurds inTurkey whose language and culture are suppressed and their special ideotity not recognised. Why does not the United States try to help the Kurds inTurkey who are suppressed and persecuted and who are fighting for an autocomous rule within Turkey? Why this double-standard? The answer is simple enough: Turkey is a member of NATO and is an ally of the United States.

It is claimed by the United States that they do not intend to partition Iraq and they respect its independence and integrity. Those are fine words indeed. But on the ground it is feared that the establishment of no-fly zones will be exploited by the Shiites and Kurds so as to form separate entities and thus dismember Iraq as has actually happeoed with the northern Kurdish part of Iraq. The Kurds of Iraq are virtually independent for all intents and purposes as they bave their own parliament and their own government. In other words they have their own mini-states. But the creation of mini-states on ethnic or confessional divisions will inevitably lead to internecine conflicts resulting in more instability in the Middle East.

We have witnessed numerous conflicts along ethnic or confessional lines in what used to be called Yugoslavia. the ex-Soviet Unioo and in Afghanistan with tragic effects on the civilian population. Such a result is neither in the interest of the United States or Europe or for that matter, the new world order.

The writer was an advocate in Palestine in 1944 and, for many years, legal officer at UNRWA headquarters in Beirut and Vienna.

# LETTERS

### A Ramadan gift

To His Majesty:

In the name of God, the Merciful the Compassionate.

YOUR TOTAL recovery after completing chemothera-py treatment at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota is a victory for your personal courage and for your determination to win the "cancer war". It is a historical victory for the Jordanian people, and, above all; it is a victory for God's will, wisdom and destiny.

This is great news to all Jordanians. Thanks to You, God Almighty, for Your gift to the Jordanian family in the Holy Mooth of Ramadan.

Jordanians cannot wait these coming few days of recuperation before, God willing, you arrive in your birth place Amman, the pride and beauty of Jordan and

May God bless you. protect you, and keep you in a

Dr. Jamal A. Shurdom Founder & Executive Director The Middle East Consultations & Research Analysis — MECRA Post Office Box 677972 Orlando, Florida 32867 e-mail: mecpeace@aol.com

# The future is peace

I WOULD LIKE to react to Mr. Rami Khouri's recent article ("Palestinian houses, Jacob and the road to heaven and hell", JT January 5). It expresses outrage over the demolition of Palestinian houses by the Israeli military authorities and coocentrates oo the most recent case - the demolition of the home of Husam Abu Yakoub at the village of Kifl Haris. As a matter of fact quite some people in Israel share his feeling of shock and outrage.

I would like to comment on one positive thing amidst this shameful event. Mr. Abu Yakoub, the owner of the destroyed house, did oot allow his barsb experience to lead him into blind hatred of all Israelis. Instead, he and his neighbours at Kifl Hares stood shoulder to shoulder with a bundred Israeli activists of the Committee-Against House Demolitions and Gush Shalom (the Israeli Peace Bloc) during a protest action oo the weekend. Though the army prevented the Israelis from entering the village and taking part physically in the rebuilding of the demolished house, the act of our standing together, Israelis and Palestinians, was for all of us who were there, an affirmation that a peaceful future is possible and even inevitable - a future in which the Palestinians will be free of the occupation with all its manifestations, free to build bomes on their land without apprebension that they be demolished: in which young Israelis will be free of the agonising choice of either serving in an army of occupation or going to prisoo; in which the shared memories of such ancestral Patriarchs and Prophets as Ya'akov/Yakoub will serve as a bridge between the two friendly neighbours. ....

> Adam Keller - Gush Shalom spokesperson PO BOX 3322 Tel-Aviv - 61033 phone: 03-5565804 email: adam@gnsh-shalom.org

### First impressions last

To the editor:

THE FIRST impression of any tourist of any country he/she visits is reflected by this country's airport. So Jordan has a big problem.

When I came to Amman for the Christmas holiday didn't have any Jordanian money, which I didn't believe to be a problem, until I wanted to get a trolley for my baggage — which costs JD1.

At Beirut airport porter services are free, and you are not allowed to give the porter a tip.

The plane landed in Amman at 6:30p.m. but with all the procedures I was out at around 8 something. In Beirut on the other hand. I was out half an hour after

What sort of first impression are we giving tourists?

Jomana Wael Karadsheb American University of Beirut

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any issue they wish to tackle Letters intended for publication should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld upon request but only under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing Darat exhibi

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V. N.

By Carol N

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By William Dalr ARBRITISH TO CALADRA

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# Who killed the little beauty-queen?

Everyone has a theory about the murder of JonBenet Ramsey. Now, at last, America may discover the terrible truth

By David Usborne

INVESTIGATORS TRACKING the killer of six-year-old JonBenet Ramsey, the former child pageant queen from Boulder, Colorado. have never had much to work with. They do at oriting tag least have the scribbled ransom note found in the home of her parents. Patsy and John Ramsey. Asking for \$118,000 for the linle girl, the message included this warning to her father: "Don't try to grow a brain, John." There was no need for Mr. Ramsey to agonise over the note. Hours after JonBenet was declared missing on December 26, 1996, he forced open a jammed door in the basement of the Tudor-style house and found the limp body of his daughter, bludgeoned, garroued and possibly sexually molested. Two years later, no arrests have been made and people are wondering: is it the police who have failed to grow a brain?

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This week, a grand jury, first assembled in Boulder last September to sift through what scant evidence there is, resumes its work after a month's break. This time, the grand jury will not stop until it can do no more: either they will admit defeat and the JonBenet murder trail will he left to go cold, or charges will be filed and the way will be opened at last for a trial.

An entire nation is agog, and everyone has a dinner-table theory. Was the killer an unknown intruder, as Mr. and Mrs. Ramsey through their lawyer, continue to insist? Or could JonBenet's elder brother, Burke, just nine at the time, have committed so beinous a crime? Or was it the purents - or just one of the parents - who smashed the skull of the former Little Miss Colorado and throttled ber with the garrotte? The couple now live 1,200 miles away in suburban Atlanta. As the only people identified by the Boulder authorities as under an "umbrella of suspicion," they know that their fates are in the balance. Both are expected to testify very soon before the grand jury, on the events of that

Few crimes this century, with the obvious exception of the trial of the football star O. J. Simpson, have so fascinated the American public. For two years, the story has been a frontcover staple of supermarket tabloids and news weeklies alike. Barely a night passes without haunting footage running on America's television screens of the perky tot, all golden hair and sparkling eyes, treading the stage on the junior pageant circuit. Whole continents of the Internet are dedicated to web pages on the

At the heart of the media coverage is one constant theme: a frenzy of criticism of the Boulder police and the city's benighted district

attorney. Alex Hunter, Bungled detective work in the investigation's first hours created an image of the Boulder police team as clones of the Keystone Cops. So, 100, did a string of angry resignations in Hunter's police team last year. Above all are the suspicions that, because of their wealth and high standing in Boulder society, the Ramseys have received kid-glove treatment. John Ramsey, 55, made a personal fortune when several years ago he sold a computer business, and is now building another computer company in Atlanta. Patsy Runisey, 41, is herself a former beauty queen from West Virginia. Together the couple seemed to represent the quintessential American success story, with a happy home and a prosperous bank account.

Typical of the popular mistrust was this observation from Dave Ruby, an apprentice carpenter, made to me over coffee in Boulder's trendy Russian Tea Room on a recent afternoon: "This has been swept under the carpet, These were people who lived up on the hill; no one wants to touch them." Never mind that unsolved homicides in the United States are hardly rare. Indeed, roughly one-third of the murders in this country in any average year slip between the cracks of the justice system without so much as a single arrest being made. This has as much to do with politics as with forensic methods. District anomeys in general are reluctant to press charges unless they are confident the case will fly before a jury. They would rather let a case drop than risk an acquittal and a black mark against their record.

But this case is different; the public has grown to know JonBenet almost as an additional family member in its collective frunt room, and it wants her killer found, tried and delivered to punishment. With the criticism of Hunter and the police, however, also comes widespread pessimism that that day of judgement will ever arrive. "This case seems almost frozen in time." Craig Silverman, a former Denver prosecutor, remarked last week, "All we know is that she was killed, and that a killer is on the loose. Usually, when a child killer is at large, there is a sense of urgency."

Even Henry Lee, a nationally renowned forensics expert who is serving as an adviser to Hunter, offers little hope, "We don't have much information from the witnesses. We don't have a major piece of physical evidence yet. Also, we don't have that much luck yet," he commented recently. "That's why its extremely difficult."

Indeed, there have been setbacks from the outset. The last time the Ramseys saw their daughter alive, according to their version of events, was when she went to bed on Christmas Day, filled with excitentent over the silver hieyele given to her by her parents. At 5.30 a.m. on Boving Day, Parsy Ramsey rose from her bed and went downstairs to make coffee. She found the ransom note on the back stairs of



the house, telling her that her daughter had been kidnapped and demanding the money. After waking her husband, Mrs. Ramsey alened the pulice. Officers soon arrived at the house, but it was only eight hours later, at about 2 p.m., that Mr. Ramsey, after a long search through the house, found the little girl's body behind the basement door. The body remained in the house until 10:45 p.m. that evening, when it was removed by staff limm the Boulder Cunty Coroner's Office.

Allowing Mr. Ramsey to tramp through the house in search of JonBenet and indeed to handle the body of his daughter, was the first and possibly the most serious of the mistakes committed by detectives, all from a police department that had not had to deal with a homicide in Boulder for several years. Other friends were also allowed to wander through the Ram-

sey home that day. That alone will be manna to the defence, should the case ever come to trial. When Boulder's police chief Tom Koby withdrew as head of the investigation in October 1997, he acknowledged that errors had been made, "If we had it to do all over again, we would do it differently," he said.

Joseph Wambaugh, the crime novelist, who is

a former detective himself, noted another lapse in hasic police conduct in an interview last month with People magazine - the failure of the detectives, when they arrived at the Ramsey house, to separate Patsy and John Ramsey and to question them individually. This gave them ample opportunity to coordinate their story. It was April 30, 1997 before the Ramseys finally submitted to a first round of formal interviews with investigators in Boulder. "It's policeschool hasic 101." Wambaugh commented. The problem, he said, is that "when police get involved in a case that involves wealthy, prominent peuple, they tend to panic." Then there is also the simple disadvantage of the passage of time. Statistically, most homicide puzzles are successfully solved within days of being committed. "As the case becomes colder, the chance is reduced," Mr. Lee observed,

The cul de sac nature of the case was well illustrated by last summer's resignations. In August, Detective Steve Thomas walked out of the Boulder police department, noisily accusing Hunter of sabotaging the investigation by all but siding with Mr. and Mrs. Ramsey, A month later. Lou Smits, a veteran homicide detective brought out of retirement to assist with the investigation, also withdrew, declaring that the police were unfairly persecuting the bereaved parents and were blind to the possibility that the murderer might indeed have been un unidentified introder. In his letter, he stated: "The Ramseys did not do it."

In a column last week in the Denver Post, Chuck Green, a journalist who has probably invested more ink in the story than anyone else in his profession, offered this grim observation. "If ever the public gets to fully view police conduct in the investigation and evidence in this case, it will be a sad and tragic portrait of police failures, political manoeuvring and family belligerence."

Mr. Green is among those who hold little hope that charges will ever he brought. But so long as the grand jury is meeting, there must still be a chance, Indeed, it is impossible for us on the outside to know just what has been given to the jury members to consider. The few pieces of information in the public domain have come via unsourced leaks of doubtful reliubility, mostly given to the Denver newspapers.

It would seem, however, that some progress may have been made over recent months.

The police have reportedly secured important DNA samples from the crime scene. We know that Mr. and Mrs. Ramsey have supplied investigators with samples of their own DNA. We are also told that investigators have secured four fibres found on the duct tape that was used to gag JonBenet, and that a march has been made between the fibres and the clothing worn hy Patsy on the night of the murder. Also, laboratory work has enhanced the recording of Patsy Ramsey's first, frantic emergency call to the police, early on Boxing Day. It reportedly reveals the voice in the background to be that of her son. Burke, asking what was going on and being told firmly to return to his room. That, however, contradicts their original version of events. They said that Burke had remained asleep until the police arrived.

The key to the case, however, may yet lie with the ransom note, hurriedly written, later found to have been ripped from a pad in the Ramsey home. Running over three pages, it began: "Listen carefully. We are a group of individuals that represent a small foreign faction," and went on to demand the \$118,000 in ransom money from Mr. Ramsey. If popular speculation as to the identity of the killer seems to focus on Patsy Ramsey, it is because of this note. The task of analysing it was eventually handed to a professor of English. Donald Fraser, the expert who unveiled the political columnist Joe Klein as author of the anonymous bestseller, Primary Colours, Fraser ruled out both John and Burke Ramsey as possible authors of the ransom note. He could not do the same for Patsy, however, telling investigators that while he could not definitively link it to her, it hore her "rhetorical stamp,"

At last we can count in months, if not weeks, the time left before we know if the slaying of JonBenet will remain a mystery or whether her killer may be brought to justice. Either way, it will remain one of the most compelling tragedies in the annals of American crime. As well as our sadness for JonBenet, another emotion has surely coloured our response to this story; a revulsion, fuelled by that video footage shown over and over on TV, at the gruesome

American tradition of child beauty pageants.

If you imagine that this tale might, at least, have led to the circuit's decline, think again. The number of entrants in the All-Star Kids pageant in Colorado in 1996, when JonBenet competed, stood at 15. Since her death, People magazine reports, it has jumped to nearly 50.

- The Independent

# Darat Al Funun: Celebrating the tenth anniversary exhibition of contemporary Arab artists

By Carol Malt

SOME CAME out of curiosity, others homage; many just to learn. Most came to celebrate, and a few even came to purchase. On November 24, they lit up the Darat Al Fumun with their enthusiasm. their curiosity and their appreciation. In turn, the Darat Al Funun revealed its treasures, opened its galleries and shared its cultural achievements with the people of

The occasion was the celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the founding of the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation, the 10th Anniversary of the establishment of the Foundation's art gallery and the opening reception of the Tenth Anniversary Exhibition of Contemporary Arab Artists. The creation of the Darat Al Funun by

the Foundation bespeaks the unique vision of Mrs. Suha Shoman. This vision. now a reality, showcases the arts, encourages anists and serves as an educational resource for the community.

The concept of the Darat Al Funun reaches far beyond the display of art works. It encompasses teaching, workshops, a reference and video library. Internet services, a lecture series, films, gallery walks, publications — and given its extensive grounds, performing arts programs of theatre, dance and music. It has become an Art Centre in the full context of the word; one with international participa-

tion and influence. And just in case one doubted the full extent of the multi-dimensional activities which have been presented since 1993, the entire central hall of the lower gallery complex graphically portrays the presentations in chronological order. The wall panels, with their didactic material, are works of art themselves. Also included in the room is an absorbing video which expands the historical presentation and features selected art works from the Darat al Funun's stable of Arab artists.

What is not graphically spelled out in the historical presentation is the methodology, the effectiveness and the essence of their programs. Allow me to pontificate for a moment, for that is what muscologists and museum directors do. What is the main purpose of an art centre or a museum? To collect? It used to be; but not so, anymore. It is to enlighten, to educate, and to entertain.

Enlighten? Yes, through the vision of the artist we can be uplifted, we can see unity, feel peace, explore the human universe. Educate? Definitely, Our lives become

richer, more fulfilled when we can visually see our past, and contemplate our future. Entertain? That is a difficult mandate, and possibly a misunderstood one. Think of the sheer pleasure of sensing vibrant color, the timelessness and comfort of good design, the happiness in a fine portrait. Learning, we know, is easier when the subject is both relevant and made fun.

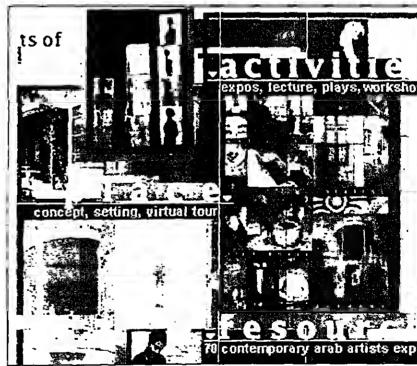
Take my three criteria with you on your visit to the Darat Al Funun's Tenth Anniversary Exhibit. There is a sense of awe, of enlightenment, upon entry into the campus. The visitor is enveloped in the architectural and landscape environment. channelled by well designed walk and stairways, past sculptural installations, to the galleries. Enlighenment awaits in unexpected corners, even at dead ends. Contemplate the vast, textured universe of Mohammad Qaitouqa's painting; be drawn into its mysterious depths and face yourself.

Education comes in many forms. Walk on the grounds amidst ancient ruins and connect with inner resources, spirituality and the wisdom of the ages, for within this complex exists not only the story of contemporary lives, careers, talents, aspirations, but also the story of the past. Juxtaposed in that historic setting are environmental, site-specific sculptures. Near the lower entrance, confront Samia Taktak Zani's work and contemplate its form and

Entertain yourself. Let the pleasure and excitement of color envelop you as you gaze at Nabil Shehadeh's compositions inside the galleries. Allow yourself to smile at the famustic world of Riham Bishara Ghassib. There is much to feel and see and experience in this exhibition.

The experience at the House of the Arts should not be missed. And what better time to go than during this Anniversary Exhibit which will be on view through January 28, 1999. Seventy-four artists are represented from Jordan, Sudan, Palestine, Imp. Saudi Arabia, Lebanon, Syria. Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria and Egypt with works in sculpture, painting, graphics, ceramics and drawing. Jordan has the largest number of panicipants: nine of the 26 artists are women. Many of the works

are for sale. According to the Director, Ali Maher, the Darai Al Funun's mission is to "Nurture the visual arts in the Arab world by making works of Arab artists available to a wider audience." The Darat Al Funun offers a unique experience here in Jordan.



one obviously honed from judicious study and appreciation of major art centres worldwide - but it adds its own purpose and focus to these models, making it an educational, historical, architectural and aesthetic entity with the powerful potential to promote Jordan's cultural heritage.

The exhibition runs until January 28

The writer is an art museum director and curator veho is presently in Jordan as a Fulbright Senjor Scholar researching women and museums in the Middle East.

# When Islam first came to

Islam in Britain: 1558-1685 By Nabil Matar CUP £37.50 pp226

By William Dalrymple

nen lähläk eri i indiri bi THE BRITISH have always had a fairly ambiguous attitude to Islam. On one of the approprie hand, this country has produced a College Hill Tell age stream of travellers and explorers who have written engagingly and sympahetically about heart-beguiling Cit hadi and hade Araby": Doughty, Burton, Lawrence, the siger and so on. On the other hand, स्ट हो स्वाह्य स्वाहित Botain has never been short of xenophobes, and the howls of derision and to Wael Kalen nazement that greeted the news of Cuirciaili aliga lemima Khans' conversion to Islam How Khan Jeminta cope with Allah . १५ द्वारते द्वामाप्रिक this?" screamed The Sun on its front Page) represents a peculiarly British they wish his " stain of headbanging hostility to Mussiwild was lins which has been more or less consistent since the time of the Crusades. My mildress of The origins of both Bruish attitudes quesi bul indi

10 Islam are charted in Nabil Matar's

brilliant and gripping study, an aston-

thing compendium of ground-break-

ing research whose very title is a measure of quite how original and surprising this book is: I certainly did not know that there were Muslims in Britain during the time of the Tudors and Smans. Yet from the 16th century onwards, Britain was closely engaged with the Islamic World as the Onoman Empire expanded westwards through central Europe and the Mediterranean, and Britain's trade network expanded east-

wards to meet it. Much of the initial contact took place against a background of naval skirmishes, where Muslim technological superiority at sea led to the capture and sinking of large numbers of British vessels. Between 1609 and 1616, it was reported that 466 English ships were attacked by Ottoman or Bartury galleys, and their crews led away in chains. By May 1626, there were more than 5,000 British captives in the city of Algiers and a further 1,500 in Sali, and frantic arrangements were being made in London to redeem them "lest they follow the example of others and turn Turk", i.e. convent to Islant.

ence was no longer confined to the Mediterranean and had extended its reach into the waters of the British Isles: In August 1625, "The Turks took out from the Church of Munnigeven in Mounts' Bay Cornwall about 60 men. women and children, and carried them away captives"; while, in June 1670, a petition was presented to the king on behalf of "140 men from Stepney" who had been captured from '22 merchant ships" by the Algerians. What was more worrying still were reports that some of these raids were being led by Englishmen who had converted to Islam and "turned Turk": For example, in September 1645, seven ships "from Barbary"

By the 1620s, the Turkish naval pres-

by some renegade of this country." It was reports that large numbers of British captives were converting to Islam that really rattled the Stuart authorities. Worse still, while some uf these conversions were forced, most were clearly not, and British travellers in the East regularly brought back tales of their compatriots who had "crossed

landed in Comwall and were led inland

over and were now prospering in Onomun service.

Indeed, Brits were constantly popping up in the most unlikely places: One of the most powerful Ottoman curachs during the late 16th century. Hasan Aga, was the former Samson Rowlie from Grent Yarmouth, while in Algeria the "Moorish King's Executioner" tunned out to be a former butcher from Excter called "Absalom" (Abdes-Sidaami, When Charles II sent Captain Hamilton to tansom some Englishmen who had been endered on the Burbary Coast his mission was unsuccessful as they all refused to return. The men had all converted to Islam, risen in the ranks, and were now "partaking of the prosperous Successe of the Turks." living in a style to which they could not possibly have aspired back home. The frustrated Captain Hamilton was forced to return empty handed: "They are tempted to forsike their God for the love of Turkish women. he wrote in his official report. "Such ladies are." he

added, "generally very beautiful."

In a great many cases, the English-

of all England's overseas commercial activity - Sir Thomas Shirely warned that "conversation with infidelles doeth mutch corrupte," and that the more time Englishmen spent in the lands of Islam. the closer they moved to adopting the manners of the Muslims. "Many wylde youthes of all nationes," he wrote, "as well Englishe as others... in everye 3 yeere that they staye in Turkye they loose one article of thevre faville." Islam overpowered the English by its nower of autriction, not by the sword; in 160, even the British consul in Egypt, Benjamin Bishop, converted and promptly disappeared from public All this, of course, went down badly

at home, and the treacherous "renegade" soon became a stock character on the English stage, where jibes about circumcision and men who converted to Islam expecting harems, and instead ended up as eunuchs, became the

men who converted to Islam were not

slaves but free merchants or Servants of

the Crown who were attracted by what

they saw: Soun after, trade with the

Onoman Empire began to flourish -

and by the end of the 17th century trade

with Turkey accounted for one quaner

Jacobean equivalent of the mother-inlaw joke. It also caused a problem to the church authorities when former apostates began returning home in large numbers, some wishing readmission to the church, others apparently wishing to keep to their new faith. In 1637, the maner was the subject of a full-scale parliamentary debate, when Archbishop Laud presented to the house A Form of Penance and Reconciliation of a Renegado or Apostate from the Christian Religion to Turcism.

One of the most amusing sections of this remarkable and original book deals with the unxious debate that rocked the country in the mid-17th century as to whether the newly fashionable Oriental drink of coffee - The Mahomeian berry" - put the drinker under "the power of the Turkish spell," thus preparing the way for Englishmen to commit apostasy; incided, a few took the view that coffee drinking was really part of a secret Turkish plot to destroy Christendom. Much of the debate, so it seems. revolved around whether coffee excited or depressed the libido. A petition published in Restoration London, purportedly prepared by "City-Wifes," referred

to the "Inconveniences that accrue to

of that Drying, and Enfectling LIQUOR" that turned their husbands into EUNUCHS."

their SEX, from the Excessive Drinking

Others disagreed: "Coffee is the general drink throughout Turkey, and those Eastern Regions, and yet no part of the world can boast more able or eager performers, than those circumcised gentlemen." wrote one pumphleteer. "Coffee Collects and senles the Spirits, makes the erection more Vigourous, the Ejaculation more full, adds a spiritual escency to the Sperme, and renders it more firm and suitable to the Gusto of the worth, and proportionate to the ardours and expectation too, of the female Para-

So wholly unexpected and unlikely is most of the material in this book that one might take some of the text for a practical joke were it not also minutely footnoted; as a feat of research alone this book is a small miracle. But it is also warmly and wittily written and, unusually for a heavyweight academic book, enormously readable and accessible. It is certainly the most surprising book I have read for many months.

- The Sunday Times

# Overseas economic problems threaten U.S. boom, Clinton says

WASHINGTON (AFP) — President Bill Clinton promised a \$108 ntillion initiative Saturday to boost U.S. exports and create jobs to protect the United States from growing economic turmoil elsewhere on the

Ignoring his impeachment trial in the U.S. Senate in his weekly radio address. Clinton said economic problems elsewhere in the world had slowed U.S. economic growth in 1998 and threatened cootinuing U.S. prosperity.

Over the past six years. we've created the longest peacetime economic expansion in American history," the president said, speaking from the United Auto Workers' (UAW) Solidarity House in Detroit.

digit growth, U.S. manufacturing exports have slowed and forced layoffs, he said.

"With millions of American jobs depending on foreigo exports, we must help manufacturers find new markets, and attract new customers for our goods overseas," he said.

"That's why my next balanced budget will include a \$108 millioo initiative to spur nearly \$2 billion in additional U.S. exports, which will sustain or create 16.000 high-wage American manufacturing jobs," he added.

"We'll begin by boosting our support for our Import-Export Bank, which currently finances 10 per cent of all U.S. capital equip-ment exports." Clinton

But after years of double- said, "By expanding credit. we can foster billions of dollars in exports that might have been deferred or cancelled due to this financial crisis."

Clinton said the U.S. Coomerce Department would help small exporters sell in emerging markets like China, Latin America and Africa.

"Most of all, we must ensure that the new global economy works for working people," he said, in announcing \$25 million to create a new arm of the International Organisation (ILO).

Working families around the world should have the same rights and fair working conditions that the UAW helped obtain for American workers, he said.

work in developing countries to establish basic labour protections, workplace safety and the right to organise unions, he said.

Clinton and the U.S. economy have been buoyed by recent figures, including a Friday Labour Department report showing that 378,000 U.S. jobs were created last month, when the unemployment rate dipped from 4.4 per cent in November to 4.3 per cent.

The president's Council of Economic Advisors said the United States was now enjoying the longest peacetime expansion in its history. 93 months.

The previous record, 92 months, was set between December 1982 and July

tions.

# Dollar decline against yen no immediate boon to U.S.

WASHINGTON (AFP) — The sharp slide in the dollar against the yen could boost U.S. exports over the long term but could also harm U.S. interests by slowing Japan's recovery, analysts

said here. The dollar fell to a two-year low - 110.7 against the yen in Tokyo on Tuesday before rallying slightly in early trading Wednesday to 112.50 yen.

But the recent trend loward a weaker dollar and stronger yen represented a sharp turnaround from trading ranges seeo in August, when the greenback was at 145 to the yen.

The yen has riseo steadily in recent months as Japanese investors have shown a reluctance to place large amounts of money overseas while shoring up their positions at home in the face of Tokyo's worst post-war recession.

Interest rate cuts in the United States, making the dollar less attractive to currency dealers, and concerns in Japan about future U.S. ecocomic momentum have coorributed strengthen the yen.

If sustained, the trend could help slow the burgeoning U.S. trade deficit. increasing the price of Japanese imports while lowering prices on U.S. exports, making them more competitive.

Among individual countries, the largest U.S. trade deficit is with Japan, which came to S6 billioo in October. Overall, the shortfall was \$139 billion from Jan-

uary to October of 1998, compared with \$110.2 billion for all of 1997.

In the face of slumping exports to sluggish economies elsewhere in Asia, U.S. officials have warned that the deficit for 1998 could swell to at least \$220 billion.

"What the United States needs to reduce that deficit is a weaker dollar," said trade analyst Brian Horrigan with the research firm Loomis Sayles of Boston.

But be warned that the positive effects of a declining dollar would oot become evideot for almost two years.

"We bave had a dollar that has been firming over the least three years and that has had a cumulative effect on worsening the

trade deficit. Its going to take a long process of going down before the situation turns around," Horrigan Jorda

Even with a dollar slide all the way through 1999 [ still expect the trade deficit to deteriorate," he added.

In Japan, the healthier yen - and its likely negative effect on exports - is already seen as threatening to destroy any chances for a Japanese economic recov. ery this year.

With the yen near 110 it means there is not much chance of the recession eoding this coming year," said Richard Jerram, chief economist at ING Barings in Tokyo." We need to see the yen at a weaker level."

(Continued on page 9)

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# Strong yen seen dampening Asian recovery

SINGAPORE (AFP) — Strength of the yen is expected to dampen a recovery of ailing Asian economies by diverting Japanese investments and creating a credit crunch, apart from denting export competitiveness, analysts have

warned. The yen shot up to a two-year high against the U.S. dollar on Tuesday and was hovering around 112 Wednesday. The rise has also dealt a blow to manufacturers in the region which had not hedged against wild fluctuations. The yen has experi-

enced massive gyrations over the past three months — from 147 against the dollar in October all the way up to 110 on Tuesday.
"At present, there are

more negative implications of a strong yen to Asia than positive," said Chia Woon Khien, head of Asian research at Swedish bank Skandinaviska Enskilda Banken in Singapore.

She said a spurt in yen strength could help the other Asian nations beef up exports to the Japanese unit's Japan but that would

FROM THE BEST MILLS IN

set the market share that could be lost in the United States.

Furthermore, Japan's capacity to absorb imports had come into question because of its sagging don demand, she said. domestic

Chia said, however, that a stronger yen which has boosted other Asian currencies against the dominant greenback — could help Taiwan and South Korea compete with Japan in exports to the non-Asian market.

"But if you are looking at both sides of the

not be sufficient to off- coin, it is better now to have a stronger dollar than a stronger yen hecause the net result is that a strong dollar is coming from an economy that can support it."

she said. About 35 per cent of Japan's exports go to the rest of Asia. for which Japan is also the second largest trading

Japan is also one of the largest providers of foreign direct investments in the region that had enjoyed rapid eco-nomic growth before plunging into a finan-cial crisis following rapid currency declines beginning mid-1997.

Chia said a continuous, rise in the yen would pull Japanese investments further back home and aggra-vate the credit crunch problem in Asia. This is scary consid-

cring Japanese are the. world's net largest capital exporters," she indicated. She also said that the

scramble by Japanese investors to assets denominated in the new euro currency, in what was seen as a portfolio shift from the United States, could gather place and "completely sideline Asia."

The Singapore-based head of Asian currency research at Barelays Bank, Desmond Supple, said that recessionfiit Asian economies expecting to ride on Japan for recovery have to look within their horders for solu-

He said: "The strong yen is the manifestation of a weakening Japanese economy, The alarming trend

weak Japanese demand which is undermining the ability of Japan to import Asian goods. Equally worrying is the fact that the Japanese financial system has been dealt a blow by the weakness of govern-ment bonds," Supple said.

He added that large losses in bond investments suffered by Japanese institutions raised the risk of capital repatriation in the coming months which could jack up the yen further.

The regional econohouse cial Joanne Chong, said that strength of the yen would hurt Japan's export competitiveness and lead to stagnation in the world's second

largest economy.
"From an intagible point of view it will dampen sentiment in the region because as long as Japan remains in the doldrums, it casts a cloud of uncertainty in the region simply because of its inability to grow." she said.

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# THE Daily Crossword Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

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# **Peanuts**



### **Andy Capp**

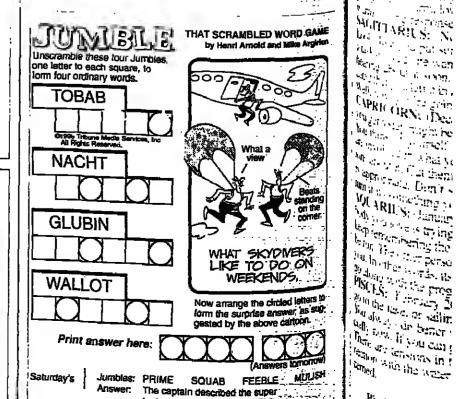


#### Mutt'n'Jeff





"You can call me, fax me or send me some e-mail...but no face-to-face talking until you shower and shave!"



lanker as — A SHIP OF FUELS

# A review of news from the Arabic Press

#### Jordan boosts exports of vegetables and fruits by 13 per cent in 1998

\*\* JORDANIAN EXPORTS of veg-etables and fruits increased by 13 per cent last year as the total ruse by 48,000 tonnes, from 370,200 tonnes in 1997 to 418,500 tonnes in 1998. said Salem Lozi, the director general of the Agricultural Marketing Organisation (AMO). Lozi attributed the increase to the success in opening new markets such as the Omani mar-

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Lozi indicated that Oman started receiving the Jordanian exports directly noting that exports to that country reached 32,000 tonnes in 1998 compared to 2,000 tunnes and 200 tonnes during 1997 and 1996 respectively. The AMO chief said another reason for the rise in exports was the return of normal ties between Kuwait and Jordan. As a result, he added, Kuwait ranked second as it imported 100,000 of Jordanian produce. 20.000 tonnes more than in

The AMO chief pointed out that exports to Bahrain increased by 8,000 tonnes and to Qatar by 7.000 while exports to Europe rose by around 2,500 tonnes. He noted that sales to European countries do not exceed 8,000 tonnes which represent about 1.8 per cent of total exports.

Lozi attributed the low exports to European states to the high specifications required in the European markets and the stiff competition that faces Jordanian exports there. Moreover, he said, the difficulties in reaching the European markets and the high costs in this regard are additional factor contributing to the low volume of exports.

He explained that exports to Europe are usually conducted by air freight as Jordan is not located on the shores of the Mediterranean as Lebanon, Cyprus, Tunisia, Turkey or Israel, As such, the costs are high. Similarly, Lozi said, exports to eastern Europe face difficulties because the products have to be exported via refrigerated trucks which are not of high specifications to enable them to reach the market there easily.

Noting that exports to European markets usually take place during winter when weather conditions are difficult. Lozi said such climate restricts exporting via unqualified refrigerated trucks. He stressed that the Kingdom hopes to boost its exports of vegetables and fruits to the European markets especially after signing the partnership accord with the European Union and after taking into consideration all the problems that hinder such an increase in exports.

He mentioned in this regard improving the specifications and studying the needs of the European markets especially during the winter season. Lozi also emphasised that the AMO was servicing all levels of the private sector and that it is working with the private sector to open new markets.

Lozi said the AMO was conducting studies on all traditional and new market to detect new developments and changes in requirements. He expected exports to shoot up by another 13 per cent this year (Al

#### Bekaa Valley make little sense until you reach the far side and see die sign announcing the border with Any financial industry is

CHTOURA, Lebunon (R) --

The hanks that line the litter-

strewn road slieing across

Lebanon's poverty-stricken

always looking for customers in need of its services, and when it comes to banking Syria is a vacuum that Lebation's banks are more than happy to fill by locating branches on its borders.

"li's not money laundering," said a Lebenese banker. speaking as others in the industry on condition that he was not identified. "It's commercial transactions because they don't have a banking system."

The volunte of money leaving Syria, hypassing the official exchange laws, is impossible to ascenain. There are at least to bank branches arrand Chioura alone; others

are near other border crossnationalised in 1963.

ings to Syria. Some Syrians prefer to deal with head offices in Beirut, while bankers say middlemen - who handle most transactions on behalf of the Syrian merchants generating the bulk of the cash — also carry

out stopping in Lebation. Although most transactions are smaller, letters of credit are sometimes for \$500,000. Estimates of the amount of Syrian money held ahroad range into the tens of hillions of dollars.

funds to other countries with-

"Billions of dollars of goods coming to Latakia arrive marked free of payment," said a banker, explaining that goods arriving at the Syrian pon had been paid for without Syrian state authorisation through letters of credit issued abroad.

This Bekagi industry has been created to fill the void left by the decay of the Syrian banking system since it was

It now consists of a central bank overseeing six state banks. Of the six, including institutions aimed at industry and agriculture, the Commercial Bank is the only important one, holding 85 per cent of the sector balance sheet.

Syrians do their banking in Lebanon

The central bank was modern, even compared to Europe, 40 or 50 years ago. Now it's completely outdated, said a Western banking expen.

"By far it's the most underdeveloped hanking system in the region. They're in the Soviet Union in 1989 - even less. The Soviet Union at least had well-trained staff; in the Syrian system you don't even have that.

The Synan government which has been slowly breaking with the Soviet model that was popular when President Hafez Al Assad was a young officer, understands modern banks are necessary if its development hopes are to

"Unless you develop the sector it will hinder the development of the industrial, agricultural sectors and so on," Deputy Prime Minister Salim Yassin told Reuters, while cautioning that reforms must be done carefully.

"Needed reforms in the financial sector or units of the financial sector are taking place and it will continue," he said. "And I do hope at a faster rate than we have done so far. A small project by the Euro-

pean Union under a 2.2 milfion ECU (\$2.6 million) grant is providing basic apprading of the central bank, such as installing computers to better control the bank's activities.

A 25 million ECU project is under consideration, that over an 18-month period starting in late 1909, would initiate much broader reform, "There is nothing to improve, it has to change," said a diplomat.

One expen estimated it

could take at least seven years to reform the financial sector without unexpected complications, emphasising that the Syrians are right to think it must be done methodically to avoid the distortions that helped create chaos in some emerging markets.

Staff, who now receive salaries of about \$100 a month, need to be trained and given new incentives. Basic equipment, such as computers to keep the central bank aware of activities in the banking sector, have to be installed.

There are no proper accounting standards, legal structures are antiquated. Obtaining loans is so difficult - and would not be done with the secrecy rigidly observed by Lebanese banks that merchants pay 20 percent interest rates in the Syrian souks in the centuries-old fashion. There is only one insurance company, also

FORECAST FOR JANUARY, SUNDAY 10, 1999

HOROSCOPE

By Linda C. Black, Tribune Media Services, Inc.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) There are opportunities to party, but don't go into debt. On the other hand, don't let a lack of money stop you. Money is out there; you just need to figure out how to get it into your account before you find a way to spend it. Today, that's your challenge. Figure out how. to make ends meet, so you can play.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You and important things to discuss today. Find a private place where you can do that without fear of interruption. Once you get all the important stuff worked out you can just relax. Some cuddling could even occur, so you'd better pack in a few necessities, like champagne, for example,

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Something you want to accomplish today could take more work than you thought. No problem, it you and your sweetheart pitch in together. Working together could move your relationship from frivolous to substantive. You'll certainly gain stature in your

friend's eyes as you prove you're not just talk.

CANCER: (June 22 to July 21) Things should be just about the way you want them, so celebrate. You've worked hard and you need to give yourself a bonus. Don't go into debt. though, or you'll run into trouble from your mate. Don't let a silly argument interrupt your romanuc plans for the evening, either. A casual remark isn't mean to hun your feel-

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You're in the spotlight today. People want to know what you're up to. You may have to answer some tough questions, but that's OK. Its good practice. You'll run into this sort of situation more and more as you climb the ladder to success. Meanwhile, don't overlook your partner's needs. Take flowers for no reason, and you'll discover what the reason is.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Stop, look and listen today. Consider what needs to be done, and how you're going to do it. Also, be tuned in to what other people around you are doing. That's a trick you can get better at with practice. Intuition is partly just paying attention to details, and

today you'll be excellent at that. LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Today, make service your primary motivation. Somebody needs your attention, and you want to give it. Be watching for whatever has to be done to make things run smoothly. Although you're not thinking about material rewards, that could be a consequence of your actions. Focus on providing for others and you'll be

provided for as well. SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) One of your plans for home or family looks like its running into a roadblock. That's partially because you won't do what somebody else wants you to do. That's OK. The other person might actually benefit from your socking to your guns. State your position in a warm, loving way, and you're more apt to get a

warm, loving response.

SAGITTARIUS: [November 22 to December 211 Oops! Looks like you put something off long enough. It might be a task a loved one wanted you to do, in which case you'll be hearing about it soon. The whole thing became so compli-cated that you left it in a pile and hoped nobody would notice.

Well, now you're going to have to start producing results. CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 201 The advice you get today might be a little more intrusive than you'd like. You think of yourself as the Lone Ranger, but other people are involved in what you do, and sometimes they have opinions about it. Cut them some slack, especially if their advice is appropriate. Don't snap at somebody who speaks out of

turn if its something you need to hear. AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Looks like somebody you love is trying to order you around today. If you can keep remembering the love, it won't be so bad. It might even be fun. The other person has some kind of benefit in mind for you. In other words, its for your own good. So if you can just

go along with the programme, you'll be better off.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) This is a great day to go to the lake, or sailing, or anything you can do near water. You always do better when you've got water around, especially now. If you can go with friends, that would be perfect. There are tensions in the air, but if you can make that connection with the water, everything smoothes out for all con-

Birthstone of January: Garnet - Rose Quartz.

### **Dollar decline** against ven no immediate boon to U.S

(Continued from page 8)

For U.S. analyst David Gilmore of Foreign Exchange Analytics, the rise in the yen "is the worst thing that could happen to the Japanese economy, given that its only strength in the private sector is from exports.

"At this stage of the game there's probably a greater interest (in the United States) in having a stronger Japan and a stronger Asia than in addressing the widening trade deficit with Japan," according

At Salomon Smith Barney. economist Kennit Schoenholtz has predicted that the current surge in the yen will be short-lived.

'Fundamentals suggest that the yen will be the weakest industrial currency in 1999. reflecting the continued plunge of the Japanese economy and the deterioration of the financial system," he wrote in a recent report.

He saw the Japanese currency sliding back to 140 to the dollar later this year.

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Company	Open	Close	Change
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	BANKS		
ARAB BK	217.000	217.000	0.00%
NT'L Bk	1,540	1.540	0.00%
Bk. OF JO	1.270	1.250	- 1.57%
MIDOEL EAST BK	1.040	1.030	- 0.96%
THE HOUSING BK	2.880 1.630	2.840	- 1.39% + 1.23%
JO, GULF Bk	0.700	1.650 0.700	0.00%
JO, ISLAMIC BY	1.700	1,680	- 1.18%
PHILADELPHIA BK	0.560	0.560	0.00%
BANKS INDEX	284.410	point =	-0.19%
INSII	RANCE	_	
INOU	MIOL		
GENERAL ARABIA INS	2.040	2.040	0,00%
AHLIA INS	1.110	1.060	- 4.50%
INSURANCE INDEX	126,370	point =	-0.23%
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SE	RVICES		
ELECTRIC POWER	1,720	1,760	+ 2,33%
PORTFOLIO SECURITIES	0.800	0.810	+ 1.25%
JO. INT'L TRADING CENT	0.270 6.550	0,270 5,400	- 2.70%
AL-RA'I AL-ZARQA FOR EDU	0.840	0.850	+ 1.19%
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IND	USTRY		
CEMENT	3.620	3.750	+ 3.59%
PHOSPHATE	1.770	1.730	- 2,26%
ARAB POTASH	2.940	3.090	+ 5,10%
PETROLEUM REFINERY	10.500	10,540	+ 0.38%
THE IND. COMML& AGRIC ARAB PHARMACEUTICAL	2,810	2.840	+ 1.07%
TOBACCO & CIGARET	1,240	1.240	0.00%
DAR AL DAWA	5.420	5.400	-0.37%
MIDDEL EAST COMPLEX	0.570	0.560	- 1.75%
JO. STEEL .	0.990	0.980	- 1.01%
ARAB ALUMINIUM	1.870	1,900	+ 1.60%
LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	0.400	0.400	0.00% 5.56%
NTL IND PETRO - CHEMICAL	0.350	0.340	- 2.86%
ROCKWOOL	0.290	0.290	0.00%
NT'L CABLE	0.650	0.650	0.00%
SULPHO - CHEMICALS	0.380	0.380	0.00%
ARAB CENTER FOR PHAR	1.280	1.260	- 1.56%
EL-ZAY	1.370	1.370	0.00%
UNIVERSAL MODERN IND	0.660	0.670	+ 1.52%
NT'L ALUMINIUM	0.720	0,700	- 2.1070
INDUSTRY INDEX	84.850	point =	+2.35%

#### JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

An organisation responsible for following up the implementation of the recently signed EU-Jordan Association Agreement in Amman is seeking qualified candidates to fill the following positions:

1) Economist:

Key responsibilities: Conduct studies on the implementation of the Association Agreement and appraise the impact of the agreement provisions.

Recommend action plans for the implementation of agreement related policies. Provide policy analysis regarding cooperation between Jordan and the European Union. Design and supervise the administration of seminars, meetings, conferences and other

activities conducted in Jordan within the Iramework of the agreement. Qualifications:

PhD/MSc in Economics from a reoutable university.

A proven record of expense in international trade, and/or econometrics.

4 years expenence in a senior position in a related lield. Excellent command of both Arabic and English is a must.

2) International Business Specialist:

Key responsibilities:

Identily opportunities for economic co-operation, technology transfer, trade and investment that may benefit Jordanian institutions and investors within the framework of the

Survey European economic sectors and legislation and assess the capabilities of Jordanian investors to meet the EU market requirements.

Prepare plans, appraise procedures and follow-up on the implementation of economic cooperation projects and programmes with the EU for private sector development.

Organise and execute workshops and other awareness activities designed to disseminate information regarding the EU-Jordan Association Agreement to businesses.

Qualifications:

PhD in Business Administration or MBA from a reputable university.

Shall heve a proven record of expertise in business, corporate management, and

international relations. Excallent command of both Arabic and English is a must.

3) Two Researchers:

Key responsibilities: Conduct desk and field research on various trade related issues.

Provide statistical analysis and data fabulation as required. Facilitate cooperation between Jordan's private and public stakeholders to maximise

benetils from the Jordan-EU economic and trade cooperation.

Qualifications:

MBA/MA in economics, business management or a related field.

Minimum 3 years of experience in research and studies.

Knowledge of statistical analysis techniques and good computer skills is a must.

Excellent command of both Aratic and English is a must.

4) Secretary:

Key responsibilities:

Provide edministrative support lo a team of researchers. Maintain and organise files and filing systems both on the computer and manually.

Execute and follow up all correspondence between the organisation and its environment. Perform public relations duties as the job may require.

Qualifications: BS/BA in a relevant field. At least 3 years of experience in office management/administration

Experience in computer Word processing and correspondence in Arabic and English. Must have good communication and presentation skills (speaking, reading, and writing).

Remuneration is competitive

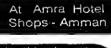
Mail your current CV to:

Director, P.O. Box (7399), Amman, Jordan. Deadline for receiving CVs is: (January 24th 1999).

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# Australians upset Swedes to clinch Hopman Cup

newest tennis Australia's 15-year-old Jelena Dokic. schoolgirl A\$100,000 (\$62,500) as she helped her country power to victory over Sweden in Saturday's

Hopman Cup final here. Dokic and her partner, Mark Philippoussis, wore down a gallant Sweden to snatch the two singles clashes and win the mixed teams tournament for the first time.

At Burswood Dome, Dokic 'whipped Asa Carlsson and Philippoussis beat Jonas Bjorkman. Dokie overcame Carlsson 6-2, 7-6 (10/8) before Philippoussis Bjorkman 6-3, 7-6 (8/6)

In the dead mixed doubles, played as a pro-set, the Swedes gained a small consolation by winning 8-6, leaving Australia 2-1 is winners of the showdown. The Australians shared

winnings of AS200,000. "It has been a great week for me," said Dokic, "And this is the greatest day of my life. It could not have .heen better. I have never won something this hig before. We were not expected to win weren't even seeded.

"This gives me great confidence for the Australian Open, later this month. This win hasn't really sunk in yet. It is just huge for

Asked how she would spend her winnings, Dokic said: "I will go shopping."
Philippoussis said: "At

SPORTS

N BRIEF

French star

likely to miss

**Australian Open** 

PERTH (AFP) - French

tennis star Nicholas Escude

is unlikely to take part in the

Australian Open champi-

onships starting January 18

following the death of his

father, tournament director

Paul McNamee said here

Saturday. "It is not official,

but extremely doubtful he

will take part," said McNamee Escude who

reached the semi-final of the Australian Open last

year, has returned from

Noumea to France to be

with his family.

Graf wants

to team up

with McEnroe

HONG KONG (AFP)

German tennis ace Steffi

Graf has said she would

like to team up with

American legend John

McEnroe for an assault on

this year's Wimbledon

mixed doubles crown -

but he has to ask first. Graf,

who is taking part in an exhibition event here, said

late Friday she was still

waiting to hear from the

retired American veteran.

who has reportedly said he

wants to partner the 29-

year-old at Wimbledon.

"He still hasn't asked me,"

Graf told reporters. When

asked for her views on

Sure, I would like to do it

comments.



Jelena Dokic and Mark Philippoussis of Australia hold up the Hopman Cup after their win over Asa Carlsson and Jonas Bjorkman of Sweden in Perth. Australia won both of their singles to take the final (AFP photo)

would have laughed at anyone who suggested we would be the winners."

Dokic said she was not happy with restrictions imposed International Tennis Federation on the number of tournaments in which players under 17 can compete. The rules are designed to protect youngsters from

Saying she could compete in only six more tournaments before she turns 16 in April, and then in only 10 between her 16th and 17th birthdays, she added: "It's not much at all — and it's very tough to get

my ranking down. "But I guess that's just seniors over four days.

GOLD COAST (AFP) —

Schnyder launched 1999

With a three-set victory over

top seed Mary Pierce in the

Women's Hardcourt Tennis

Championship final bere

Second seed Schnyder

wore down Pierce 4-6, 7-6

17/5), 6-2 to secure her sixth

WTA title and her first win

over her French opponent at

The win over the 1995

Australian Open winner

also catapulted the 20-year-

old left-hander from world

No.11 to a career high of

Schnyder, who slammed

down II aces, said the win

over the World No.7 repre-

"I'm going to be number eight on Monday and I'm

just so happy that every-

thing has worked out so

nicely for me." Schnyder

"It was a hig step for me

to win against Mary

because she was always one

of the players I really hated

playing."
Schnyder pinpointed her early break in the second set

as a turning point in the

"It was hard because I was

playing really good tennis

and it was only the serves I

couldn't return so I just kept

on and on so in the end I got

Pierce, 23, appeared to be

the more consistent player

in the first set and made the

hreak in the seventh game when a Schuyder forehand

In the seventh game of the

second set Pierce secured

three break points and broke

when Schnyder netted an

a break," she said.

went long.

unforced volley.

match.

sented a breakthrough.

the fourth attempt.

Australian

\$170,000

Saturday.

the start of the week I the way the rules are - and it's going to be very tough." A disappointed Carlsson said: "Jelena is not like a 15-year-old, she is much stronger. She has maturity and is more like an 18 or

19-year-old. She plays very

positive strokes. "I have seen a few stars coming up and they all have the same attitude. It could be the start of a hig career." Dokic maintained the devastating form which has made her a national inside the past

Already the world number one junior, but ranked a lowly 341st in senior ranks. Dokic has now beaten three established international

Her earlier victims were Spain's world number four Arantxa Sanchez Vicario and Sandrine Testud. of France, ranked 14th. Dokic said Carlsson had

fought strongly in the second set of the final.

"She really lifted her game and I had to fight." she said.

Dokic said she was pleased she had been able to improve her game after crashing to South Africa's Amanda Coetzer at the start of the tournament.

"I have certainly played much better in my last three matches," she said.

'I have gone out thinking: 'I have nothing to lose

Schnyder in top 10 after beating Pierce

# Hewitt, Enqvist reach Australian hardcourt final

ADELAIDE (AFP) - Australian teenager Lleyton Hewitt charged into the final of the Australian Men's Hardcourt Tennis Championship with an emphatic victory over compatriot Jason Stoltenberg here

**Automatic** 

line

system

reviewed

PERTH (AFP) — An

automatic electronic line

system which broke

down in the Hopman

Cup women's singles

final is to be reviewed.

tournament director Paul

McNamee said bere

"It was very disap-

pointing the system

Play was held up

briefly during the crucial

Australia's Jelena Dokic

and Asa Carlsson, of

Sweden while the sys-

"There were some

Before the system was

used again, it would be

necessary to be certain

the problems would not

The system has been

used at the Hopman Cup

Iron filings impregnat-

ed in halls electronically

activate a courtside

buzzer when the ball

passes over a line, dis-

pensing with the need

be repeated, he said.

several times.

for line judges.

problems this week.

tem was adjusted.

McNamee said.

between

broke down," he said.

Saturday.

to be

The 17-year-old from Adelaide will defend his ritle against Swedish second seed Thomas Enqvist in Sunday's final. Hewitt stretched his unbeaten run in his

home tournament to nine matches with a 6-1, 6-3 win over the experienced Davis Cup team niember Stoltenberg.

Hewitt who beat Andre Agassi and Jonas Bjorkman on the way to winning last year's title here, outplayed Stoltenberg, attacking every shot and breaking his serve three times in the first set and once in the second.

Enqvist put last year's injury-plagued season behind him to earn a berth in the final by eliminating Australian Scott Draper in the day's other semi-final.

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Enqvist, who took a break for three months last year after undergoing ankle surgery, comprehensively outserved Draper. delivering three of his 12 aces in his final service game to claim the match 6-3, 7-5.

Draper was more of a match in the second set, but Enqvist kept his cool in the bot windy conditions at Memorial Drive, breaking in the 11th game and then claiming the match in the next.

Enqvist said he felt in control in the first set, but was lucky in the second set when Draper began to perform.



Steffi Graf gestures as she expresses her displeasure with a call in her match at the SuperPower Challenge Cup tennis tournament in Hong Kong

# Stomach bug forces Graf out of Hong Kong event

Graf's Australian Open preparations suffered a jolt Saturday when she was forced to pull out of an exhibition event here with suspected gastric influenza.

Graf was level at 2-2 against America's Venus Williams in the final of the Super Power Challenge Cup

when she withdrew complaining of stomach pains. The 29-year-old, due to fly out later Saturday to play in the Sydney International tournament which starts Sunday, was not immediately available for comment. Tournament director

Brian Catton told reporters: "Steffi said she was feeling unwell about 20 minutes before the final. She tried to play but was unable to carry on and she thinks it might be gastric flu."



Venus Williams shows off the trophy after winning Williams took the trophy after Steffi Graf retired in the first set with a stomach ache. Williams went on

# Frenchwoman takes Auckland tennis title

AUCKLAND (AFP) --Third seed Julie Halard-Decugis of France stormed to victory in the final of ASB Classic tennis tournament here Saturday when she beat defending Champion and top seed Dominique Van Roost in straight sets 6-4, 6-1.

Van Roost failed to counter the ferocity of Halard-Decugis fore hand, which was too strong for the Belgian. The victory was just reward for Halard-Decugis, who has been to Auckland every year since 1994, with the exception of 1997 when she was injured.

It was also her best performance in the tournament. Her previous best had been a semifinal appearance in the 1994 event. Halard-Decugis broke Van Roost's serve in the first game of a tight first set. which then went with

In the second set, Van Roost withered at the onslaught with Halard-Decugis breaking serve in the third, fifth and seventh games to take the crown. She wrapp up her win when Roost double-faulted at 30-40 down in the sev enth game of the second set. "I think I played great today and I am very pleased," Halard-Decugis said.

Van Roost was gracious in defeat, saying her opponent was just too good on the day. "Julie played wonderfully today, she didn't make a mistake," Van Roost said. Both players now head to Australia as they continue their preparations for the Australian Open, which starts on January 18.

the SuperPower Challenge Cup in Hong Kong. to play an exhibition mntch against Anna Kournikova, defeating her 6-2, 4-6, 6-4 (AFP photo)

# but I wish he would ask me first," added the winner of 21 Grand Slam events. K

McEnroe's

PHILADELPHIA '1'

Michael Douglas & Sean Penn .. in

THE GAME

Shows: 12:15, 2:15, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30

PHILADELPHIA '2'

Mary Pierce

However, Schnyder, aided

In the 12th game Pierce

saved three set points to

force a tie-break in which

By the third set Pierce's

power game started disinte-

grating and Schnyder broke

Schnyder prevailed 7-5.

twice to win the match.

by a dubious line call, broke

straight back to level.

Bruce Willis & Richard Gere .. in

THE JACKAL

Shows: 12:15, 2:15, 6:30, 8:30, 10,30

PLAZA

Pierce said she had made

"I have to give Patty a lot

of credit. She's a tough

opponent and she played

great today and I think she

deserved to win," Pierce

"I had my opportunities

the match difficult for her-

Comedian Mohammad Huneidi .. in

SAEEDI AT THE AMERICAN

UNIVERSITY

Shows: [2:30, 3:30, 6:30,

CONCORDE

and I let them slip away too

many times.
"I missed a lot of easy shots and I wasn't aggres-

While Schnyder will play

in next week's Sydney inter-

national, Pierce will take a

week off to train in

Melbourne before the

January 18 Australian Open.

sive enough."

Steven Segall.. in FIRE DOWN BELOW

Shows: 12:15, 2:15, 6:15, 8:15 Al Pacino & Robert De Niro.. in

HEAT Show: 10:15 GALLERIA 1

ABDOUN www.cns.com.jo/Galleria Ahmad Zaki & *Layla Elwi .. i*n

EDHAK, ES SOURA TETLA' HELWEH

Shows: 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

GALLERIA 2

ABDOUN www.cns.com.jo/Galleria

Dustin Hoffman & John Travolta ... in

MAD CITY

Shows: 6:15, 8:30, 10:45

Hisham Yanes Theatre

TEL: 4625155

Watch out for the new play

Listings for films and showing times as received by cinemas and their advertising agencies.

# Syria welcomes Japan's Middle East peace efforts

DAMASCUS (R) — Syria on Saturday welcomed Japan's efforts to push forward stalled Middle East peace talks. Syrian Foreign Minister

Farouq Al Sharaa was speaking after talks with his Japanese Masahiko Koumura on how to revive

Syrian-Israeli peace talks which broke off in early 1996. Koumura also had a meeting with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad, also attended by Sharaa.

We highly appreciate the Japanese role in the peace process and its effective participation in the United Nations peacekeeping force [separating Israeli and Syrian troops] in the Golan," Shara said.

This participation reflects Japan's desire to effectively be involved in the Middle East peace process. We warmly welcome this participation

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait's

parliament called on the gov-

ernment on Saturday to block

any normalisation of ties with

Israel in view of reports that a Kuwaiti journalist had visited

A statement sent to Reuters

said members of parliament

had urged the government to

Kuwait's honour."

the statement added.

**Kuwait MPs call** 

for measures to

because Japan's position supports implementation of U.N. resolutions, especially the landfor-peace principle," he added. Koumura, visiting Damascus

as part of a regional tour that is also due to take him to Israel, told Reuters he would stress during talks with Israeli Prime Minister Benyamin Netanyahu the importance of resuming the Syrian-Israeli talks.

"My talks with President Assad were very good. The president expressed support for the Japanese role and I am happy to be able to belp the concerned parties and to support the peace process." the Japanese minister said.

Koumura, who already visited Egypt and Lebanon, left for Jordan at the end of his talks in Damascus. He will also visit the Palestinian self-rule areas,

Tokyo is one of the major aid donors to the Middle East, especially to the Palestinian National Authority.

Japan has given Syria over \$1.6 billion in soft loans and grants during the last few years to contribute to the financing of a number of development projects, especially the construction of power stations.

Japanese troops are participating in the 1.050-strong U.N. Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) that is starioned in the Golan area between Northeast Israel and

UNDOF comprises troops from Austria, Canada, Poland and Slovakia in addition to

# Lebanese police prevent block Israel links removal

been published so far. Pro-Western Kuwait has provided the U.S.-led Middle East peace process with both political and financial backing despite its tense ties with Palestinian President Yasser

Netanyahu and President Ezer

The interviews have not

"desist from anything which could be considered as nor-Parliament often attacks malisation with the Zionist Israel and in November entity [Israel] to protect strongly criticised the Wye River peace accord between Israel and the Palestinians -"Parliament asked the government to present a report on which the Kuwaiti governlegal steps taken against this ment has welcomed.

citizen [who visited Israel]. Kuwait, like most of the other conservative Gulf Arab Parliament has also banned him from entering parliament states, is not willing to consider normalisation with Israel in in his capacity as a journalist," the absence of a comprehen-Media sources said a local sive Middle East peace settlement, including the status of daily had sent a reporter to Israel where he conducted a Jerusalem and Israel's unconseries of interviews with severditional withdrawal from the Golan Heights and southern Prime Minister Benyamin Lebanon.

importance to ensure financial

UNRWA

day's light rain.

Arabic coffee.

The two, accompanied by

General Peter Hansen, were

cheered by crowds gathered to

greet them after the break of

the Ramadan fast in yester-

Koumura, accompanied by

delegations of officials and

media, stopped to talk to camp

residents outside a barber

shop, where they were wel-

comed with tea and traditional

After Prince Hassan and

Koumura visited one of the

camp's modest homes, the

large motorcade slowly made

its way through the narrow

and dark streets of the camp.

Jordan, home to more than

1.3 million Palestinian

refugees registered with the

United Nations Relief and

Works Agency, has struggled

bravely to provide all its citi-zens with health services, edu-

cation, and other infrastruc-

Prince Hassan earlier wel-

comed the Japanese official

during an iftar banquet hosted

by Lower House Speaker

Abdul Hadi Majali and attend-

ed by deputies and Cabinet

Prince Hassan spoke about

his trip to London on Friday to

meet His Majesty King

Hussein, and said he told the

King that he was meeting with

the Japanese foreign minister

to discuss issues of mutual

concern and bilateral coopera-

Prince Hassan expressed his

delight at his meeting with the

King, who enquired about the

Jordanian people and dis-

cussed various regional issues.

The Crown Prince said he dis-

cussed with the King national

economic issues, such as for-

eign aid, stability and produc-

Prince Hassan

Commissioner

Regent-Koumura talks

Iraq and bilateral ties

(Continued from page 1)

Okada reiterated Japan's

political and financial support

to the Palestinian National

Authority, and said Tokyo

fully recognises the

Palestinians' right to self

determination, including their

right to declare an indepen-

But he urged the PNA to

restrain from unilaterally

declaring an independent state

on May 4, as Palestinian

President Yasser Arafat has

"We will ask the

Palestinians to be a bit more

careful, because, although we

agree in principle that this is

their right, the timing [of the

declaration of independence]

An immediate result of

Koumura's high-level talks in

the Kingdom was his

announcement of Japan's con-

tinued commitment to sup-

extension of a soft loan to

Jordan for a \$63 million

tourism development project

expected to increase foreign

currency earnings, create jobs,

and stimulate domestic and

An exchange of notes for the

soft loan was signed by

Koumura and Planning

Jordan is the largest recipient of Japan's official develop-

ment assistance loans per

capita among developing

countries worldwide, with

Tokyo's contributions to the

Kingdom's economic devel-

opment totalling \$82 million

Earlier, Prince Hassan

accompanied Koumura on a

visit of the Hitteen refugee

camp, northeast of Amman, to

familiarise him with the needs

of the camp residents and the tion.

Minister Nabil Ammari.

regional economies.

Jordan and Japan signed the

porting Jordan financially.

could be counterproductive,"

Okada said.

said on various occasions.

focus on peace process,

# of public

Lebanese police have acted to prevent the removal of documents from public sector offices whose top management have recently been replaced, the police said

Saturday. In one operation, three female employees of an organisation which has been abolished as part of a move to clean up public affairs, were stopped as they tried to leave their offices with bags full of papers.

Police seized the documents hut did not detain the employees of Ogero. the office responsible for maintaining the telephone network.

Documents were also seized from staff of the Lebanese Electricity Office as they tried to remove them. The employees were released hut an investigation

is under way, police said. On Thursday the government adopted a series of measures to put an end to "waste and corruption" in the public sector.

Nineteen top officials and board chairmen of public sector offices, most of them regarded as close associates of former Prime Minister Rafik Hariri, were sacked or removed from office pending transfer.

Hariri strongly attacked the measures on Friday, saying they were dictated hy a "spirit of political vengeance" and "indicated a lack of seriousness" in the conduct of public affairs.

#### Palestinians participate on Saturday in a march in the West Bank town of Jenin to mark the 34th anniversary of the first operation by the PLO's leading military faction. Fatch. Some 3,000 demonstrators marched through the streets of the Palestinian-ruled town (AFP photo) Khatami vows to end dissident murders TEHRAN (AFP) — Iranian President Mohammad Khatami pledged on Saturday to put an end to the political violence in the country which documents has claimed the lives of at least four liberal dissidents in the

past two months. "I will make every effort to find the cause of the recent murders, whether they have their roots at home or abroad." be said at a public meeting to

mark the death of Imam Ali, the son-in-law of Prophet Mohammad and a figure revered by Shiite Muslims. This is a stain of disgrace that must be eradicated. We will remove any corrupt cell in

the body of the country," he

TULSA tAP) - A dentist

accused of blindfolding

and then photographing

dozens of his young female

patients performing sex

acts on him has admitted

molesting five girls.
Donald C. Johnson

pleaded guilty Friday to

five counts of lewd

molestation in exchange

for a recommendation from

prosecutors that he receive

a 70-year prison senience.

Sex ahuse charges that car-

ried possible life terms

Johnson, 48, spent a

week as a fugitive after

employees at his Tulsa

dental office discovered a

box full of photographs of

hlindfolded girls, mostly

between the ages of 8 to

16. They appeared to be

anaesthetised while per-

forming oral sex on a man.

were dropped.

Dentist admits he

molested young patients

taking place at a time when the regime has put difficult conditions behind it and is moving toward establishing the rule of law." he said, appealing for the public to help to establish law The advocates of violence

"These hateful murders are

do not want to see a stable Iran." He also praised the efforts of supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who on Friday ordered a further investigation into the murders.

Iran's formidable intelligence ministry made the extraordinary admission earlier this week that rogue intelligence agents were involved in the stabbing to death of opposition nationalist leader Daryush

man as Johnson based on a

distinctive ring appearing

District Attorney Tim

in the photos.

Foruhar and his Parvaneh, on Nov. 22.

"Ill-minded, irresponsible colleagues" also carried out the kidnapping and murder of at least two secular writers -Mohammad Mokhtari and Mohammad Pouyandeh — in early December, it said, adding that the responsible agents had

Another writer, Majid Sharif, was found dead in mysterious circumstances around the same time but the authorities said he had died of a heart attack.

The state news agency IRNA also mentioned Friday. for the first time, the name of Piruz Davani, a writer-translator who went missing several "according to unofficial reports" be was among those

The intelligence ministry said that the rogue agents had been working for a foreign country, and Khamenei on Friday repeated the charge. "This matter is not finished. I

have difficulty believing that these murders have taken place without a foreign scenario," be On Tuesday Ali Razini, head

of Tehran province's justice department, survived an assassination attempt.

Razîni, who is reportedly close to hardline religious conregime, was slightly wounded in the leg, abdomen and chest.



# into police station

HILVERSUM (AFP) — A man seeking belp for his psychiatric problems drove his car at full speed into a police stanon here, police said Friday. The man, aged 32, whose identity was not revealed, was arrested for causing material damage to the station. But police would not say whether he would receive psychiatric treatment. The Telegraa newspaper said the man had gone to a psychiatric centre on Thursday seeking treatment but was turned away. Hospital officials told him he could not be admitted till next week ife paper added.

#### Company offers voice mail boxes to homeless

CHICAGO (R) -- Homeless

people living in shelters across the United States will have access to voice mail bons under a new program devel-oped by a cellular service provider to enable prospective employers, landlords and caseworkers can contact them.
"Having to give a shelter nim. ber to a prospective employe or landlord as a point of contact can hurt the persons chance of improving his orlar living conditions," Chicago based U.S. Cellular Corp. Sail Providing homeless people with cellular voice mail bins is the very best way to help person get off the street and into a job. said Matine Stoops of Washington-bised Noticeal Conditions Section 15 National Coalition-for-fire

#### City to scrap draconian centres for drunks

night, looks set to become thing of the past in the Volga city of Sarato, Interfact new agency said on Thingly Inchring the streets of step ing rough have long muster risk of being picked ing to be have long muster and the streets of step in the street the centres, where a cold shower and a bed often await them. The police are some times accused by victims of the centres accused by being too brutal and dispath | the 7. - merry." ing them to the centres without just cause. Interfax said the 3 117 4 - 114 ages reform-minded regional governor. Dminy Ayarsko his signed an order requiring the closure of Sarato's drying to the same with

#### Lebanese family unveils mummified hand

Florida, a prominent Letanes
family has unveiled another
example of the brisse
Egyptian relics. My great
great uncle Shayban brought
from Egypt after be family
from Egypt after be fam Florida, a prominent Lebanes studying medicine there is shown that the study is studying the studying medicine there is shown that the studying medicine there is shown that the studying the studying medicine there is shown that the studying medicine t hand of a woman with months and Darmy gers missing. Last month, and march the preside gers missing. Last means the mach the provide auctioneer in Florida failed in the There is no me auctioneer in Plonus in sell a left hand of a 4,000 per left the result of the result sell a left hand or a story of the roll of said a \$300,000 bid fell shot of the reserve price of language which author

#### Man-made fires linked to extinction of animals

Fires set hy the Aborigines caused

extinenon 50,000 years in the continent. U.S. researchers said in a report published by Science man University of Golozoff Boulder reached their Control of China Control of C zine. Scientists from the clusion by studying the distance of the large, flightless; fad the large, flightless; fad Genyomis newtodictual and the large of the la on leaves, shrubs and busies. The giant bird suddenty
The giant bird suddenty
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erate climate change the
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appearance, the some appearance, the some side of the some in in handling appearance, the some side of the some in it might us said.

# Dream of marriage dies for Greek-Italian couple

and Luigi.

The Greek woman who fell in love with Luigi Surace during World War II and was reunited with him 56 years

Harris said the families of the victims support the plea hargain, in part to spare the girls from having to testify. "It serves the community. It serves the victims. It

serves the families." Harris said. "We believe he'll be in there until he's in his Associate District Judge

Bill Beasley said he would follow the recommendation and sentence Johnson to 70 years on Feb. 16. Robert Durbin, Johnson's

lawyer, said his client wanted to protect the identity of the victims and "revictimizing PATRAS, Greece (AP) — Luck was not with Angeliki

later died Saturday in this southern port city, two weeks before they were to be married.

Angeliki Stratigou met Surace when she was 23 in August 1941 after he arrived in the city with the Italian occupation troops. Surace promised to marry

his Greek sweetheart after the war. But about a year later, his regiment was posted abroad and Surace was forced to leave Patras. When the war was over, he wrote to Ms. Stratigou

She never received the letter. Her aunt, with whom she was living, disapproved of the affair between her niece and an

all correspondence from Italy. After more than three years without any reply to his steady stream of letters to Patras,

enemy soldier, and ripped up

Surace stopped writing. He married soon afterwards, and had a son. But when his wife died in 1996. Surace began searching for Ms. Stratigou. He wrote to

the mayor of Patras, who, with the help of a journalist, managed to locate her, living in another part of the city. She had never married.

The two were reunited on Valentine's Day last year. Surace, 77, proposed marriage and Ms. Stratigou, 79, accepted. Their wedding date was set for Dec. 22 last year and delayed for a month when he was briefly hospitalised in Italy. Then had planed to share their time between Greece and

# Blair warns Iraq response will be 'swift and immediate'

(Continued from page 1)

He vowed that British forces "will remain so long as Saddam remains a threat to his neighbourhood, to the region... He only understands the language of diplomacy if it's backed up hy the threat of force."

"We have always said that we are perfectly happy to have a diplomatic solution to this... But we remain ready and willing to act if he poses a threat to the region again."

An Iraqi MP, meanwhile, slammed Blair's visit to

Kuwait as little more than a hid to collect money to pay for Operation Desert Fox, the four day campaign of air and missile strikes against Iraq last month. "His visit is aimed at

encouraging the Kuwaitis to speedily pay the bill for the U.S.-British aggression" against Iraq, Saad Kassem Hammudi told AFP in

"It is deplorable that Kuwait and Saudi Arabia always serve their masters by financing unjustified aggressions against a brother country." the MP said.

The United States, meanwhile, is poised to unleash a bomhing campaign of up to three weeks if Iraq threatens its neighbours, or shoots down a U.S. or British plane patrolling the no-fly zones, the Knight Ridder/Tribune News Service reported, citing U.S. officials.

Blair's visit comes hot on the heels of a series of clashes between U.S. and British aircraft patrolling the two no-fly zones and Iraqi ground troops and jets. On Thursday, a U.S. F-16

fighter fired a radar-seeking missile at a mobile Iraqi sur-

face-to-air missile launcher based in Kuwait and Saudi after being illuminated hy radar in the northern no-fly zone Northwest of the city of It was the latest in a string of

incidents in exclusion zones that cover almost 60 per cent of Iraqi airspace. The no-fly zones, imposed

after the 1991 Gulf war to protect Iraq's Kurdish and Shiite communities, extend north of the 36th parallel and up to the 33rd parallel in the south, reaching the outskirts of Baghdad. The southern zone is

patrolled by Allied aircraft deployed in the region.

The 12 RAF Tornadoes also flew 28 missions against Iraqi targets over the four-day U.S.-Brinish air campaign in December, dubbed Operation Desert Fox.

On Friday, Britain said it had mobilised an aircraft carrier to the Gulf as part of London's efforts to maintain the pressure on Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

The Invincible, with a complement of Sea Harrier jumpjets and Sea King helicopters. will join British forces already

# Iraq MPs call for scrapping of border with Kuwait

(Continued from page 1)

And some MPs slammed the United States and Britain and the leadership of countries who participated in the "aggression," a reference to Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

The calls came as Baghdad vowed to continue the conflict with the United States and

The Al Hayat newspaper reported Friday that the parliament would issue a resolution threatening unspecified retaliation against neighbouring states which harbour British and U.S. forces.

However the report could not be confirmed in Baghdad. Iraq is embroiled in a standoff with the United States and Britain over its defiance of "nofly" zones patrolled by the that cover almost 60 percent of have penetrated the zones Western allies in southern and northern Iraq.

fighter fired a radar-seeking missile at a mobile Iraqi surface-to-air missile launcher after being illuminated by radar in the northern no-fly zone northwest of the city of Mosul. It was the latest in a string of

incidents in exclusion zones

Iraqi airspace. The no-fly zones, imposed

On Thursday, a US F-16 after the 1991 Guif War to protect Iraq's Kurdish and Shifte communities, extend north of the 36th parallel and up to the 33rd parallel in the south. reaching the outskirts of Baghdad. U.S. defence officials said

this week that lraqi aircraft

almost every day since Dec. 23. The Pentagon has recorded at least 40 violations.

Iraqi missile launchers within the zones have fired around 20 missiles at the Allied planes. the officials said.

Iraq has vowed to step up its challenge to the zones, which it condemns as illegal and a violation of its sovereignty.

Strikes (

mistake

Intre-left PDP ins Nigerian sta

@massacred <sub>in</sub> Colombia

MOSCOW (R) — Anothers furvait journalist: relic of Soviet life, the day land Israel visit can be forced to spend the night, looks set to become a mesponsible

Petrus at using leading the Manager Bernya DNA tests end AJALTOUN (R) — A mining after the unsuccessful successful difference child's difference c

elet The report ends y peculation over the a mounts, a mich first ading subjoid new Senator calls WASHINGTON (AFP)

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#### Faisali prepare for 1999 season

AMMAN - Al Faisali Club, Jordan 1998's Jordan Cup champions, have announced participation in the Arab Clubs Soccer Championship. Club President Sultan Odwan said he will contact the Jordan Football Association after 'Eid Al Fitr offering to host the Group 4 matches which includes Palestine, Syria and Lebanon. Meanwhile, the club has requested the soccer team's players to attend a meeting next Thursday to prepare for the 1999 league. Al Faisali will start the season by playing in the Feb. 28-March 9 Jericho Soccer Championship.

#### Squash team begins programme for Pan-Arab Games

AMMAN - The national squash team will start its preliminary training and preparation for the Aug. 14-3] Pan-Arab Games after Eid Al Fitr. The programme includes matches between the team's players. The team will recall captain Hamed Saeed from London, Yazeed Adas from the UAE to join teammates Mohammad Saeed, Yazan and Sa'ad Abdul Raouf, and Ala' Harb. In the second stage, the team will hold a training camp in Egypt and attend another one in Pakistan. New members might join the team, according to club sources.

#### Swim team leaves for Egypt

AMMAN - A Jordan Swimming Federation deleganon will leave for Egypt Sunday evening to hold a tenday training camp with their Egyptian counterparts. The delegation includes Federation Vice-President Jacqueline Khouri, 18 swimmers and a number of officials, trainers and physicians.

# Dolan misses double because of air conditioner

HONG KONG (AFP) - American Tom Dolan missed out on the chance of double gold at the World Cup short course meeting here Saturday because of a hotel air-cooditioning system. Dolan, an asthma sufferer who beat the odds to win gold at the Atlanta Olympics in the 400 metres individual medley, had to drop out when he caught a cold.

He won his favourite event on Saturday then pulled out of 218. Who has a the 400 metres freestyle, where he was fastest qualifier for the

kland con: final.
Thave got a head cold because of the air conditioning in the hotel. When I get a cold my asthma gets worse. Tdo not want apply of 1960 r to kill myself by swimming when I do not feel 100 per cent,

said the 23-year-old. He was pleased at his victory in the 400 metres individual was also let ! medley with a time of 4min 19.96sees, more than 15 seconds trittatice in their outside Matthew Dunn's world record.

"That was three seconds better than I swam in Beijing earlier this week when I finished third," said Dolan, who plans to riad been a st swim two events on Suoday. "It's good that I'm progressing event by event hut I never swim fast times early in the season." World and Olympic 100 metres breaststroke champion Frederik Deburghgraeve of Belgium suffered a surprise loss in the shorter 50 metres event. The 18-year-old was beaten by Germany's Jens Kruppa who finished in 28.21.

Kruppa, who won a solitary bronze at the 1998 short course world championship, also claimed the 200 metres breastthe then well stroke gold with a time of 2:13.77.

Canada's 16-year-old sensation Kelly Stefanyshyn, who won two silvers at last year's Commonwealth Games in Kuala the second ex-Lumpur, also claimed two golds in the women's 50 and 200 withered a metres backstroke events.

Claudia Poll, the women's 200 metres freestyle Olympic laught win R champion, withdrew from the 200 metres final after posting the fastest time in the heat but won the 800 metres freestyle in the third hat 8:31.03.

# mators Wanted

We are looking for 2D Animators and in-betweeners, experience in operating computers is helpful but not necessary, training will be provided. Good drawing ability is a must.

Qualified candidates should send their CVs with a recent photo to P.O. Box : (5296) Amman 11183 - Jordan

### **GOREN BRIDGE**

WITH OMAR SHARLE & TANNAH HIRSCH

THE OTHER WAY ROUND that the hand was not quite worth a demand hid. Incidentally, if you play weak two-bids with Iwo clubs

ulia physica ويرمحا خيابا الطائف NW need to Apple J. Milling WEST

AJ 109863 10864 (pt 19764 SOUTH

OAK52 \*AK532

WEST NORTH EAST
Page 14 Page
Page 34 Page
Page 50 Page
Page 700 Page
Page Page Page

Opening lead: King of A

ny declarers tend to look at a and from their point of view only. But sometimes it pays to consider dumny as the mester haod. The key to this approach, known as a dumny reversal, is the presence of high trumps on the table. Consider this hand

clubs and draw the remaining mps, and declarer's high cards take the rest of the tricks. Nith 21 high-card points and a

of risks unless trumps are 2.2.

Turning things round, the North hand has only three spade losers. As long as one spade can be ruffed low, the grand slam is unbeatable to the property of the low, the grand stam is undestable even if trumps break 4-0, provided West has all the trumps Win the opening lead in dummy West has all the trumps.
Win the opening lead in dummy and immediately ruff a spade low.
Cross to the queen of Irumps, on which East discards a spade, and ruff a spade high. Return to the table with the queen of hearts, and ruff the last spade with South's remaining trump honor. Now get to

as the only force, be wary of making

a demand bid when clubs, especial

a demand but when class, especially a weakish sun, is your length; it can waste a precious round of indiging to describe your hand. The crucial bud in the auction, offer

South had patterned out the hold south had patterned but the total ing, was North showing heart -up-

Looking at the hand from South's point of view, there is no crouble handling the losing diamond. The

fourth heart is more of a problem, since declarer can draw only two

rounds of trumps before going after rearts and that runs into all with

# What happens next? Top Salt Lake Olympics officials resign over scandal

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) - The worst ethics scandal in Olympic history has taken down the top two executives of the Salt Lake Olympic Committee in a bribery scandal involving scholarsbips, gifts and cash payments of up to \$70,000 to win the 2002 Winter Games.

Committee president Frank Joklik and Vice President David Johnson resigned Friday amid the disclosure of a growing list of misdeeds surrounding the Games.

With the Olympics just three years away and much of the infrastructure already built, state leaders and Olympic organisers remained confident that Salt Lake City could still be a successful host.

"It must be made absolutely clear that the actions of a few do not reflect the values, moral expectations or standards of behavioUr of this community and state," Gov. Mike Leavitt said, "We deplore it and we revolt at being

associated with them." But the matter is far from resolved, The bribery scandal, which surfaced in November, remains the subject of four separate investigations by the Justice

Department, the International Olympic Committee (IOC), the U.S. Olympic Committee and a SLOC ethics panel.

And new allegations continue to surface. At a news conference Friday, Joklik described a number of misdeeds by bid officials, including cash payments to IOC members — more than \$70,000 in one case: payments for housing, travel, and education expenses for IOC member relatives; expensive gifts and free health care for IOC members and their families; and assistance in making a Utah land deal that left an influ-

\$60,(XX) profit. In addition, Leavitt's spokeswoman, Vicki Varela, acknowledged late Friday that the SLOC ethics panel is looking into possible use of bid committee credit cards to pay for

ential IOC member from Africa with a

female escorts for IOC members, Joklik said he knew nothing of gifts and payments to IOC members while he was volunteer chairman of the bid panel, but was stepping down because "changes must be made for the games to proceed.

He did not refer to the payments as bribes. and said he didn't believe IOC votes were promised in exchange for Salt Lake's

Johnson, 40, was the point man in wooing the votes of IOC members and resigned from the No. 2 job in SLOC at Joklik's

The organising comminee also will stop paying a \$10,000-a-month consulting fee to Toni Welch, who resigned as SLOC president in 1997 in the wake of spouse-abuse

Welch was the prime mover in Salt Lake's 1998 and 2002 Olympic bids.

Two other senior SLOC employees who were part of Salt Lake's winning bid senior vice president of marketing and legal affairs Kelly Flint and licensing director Rod Hamson - were placed on paid leave pending the outcome of the investigations.

While Joklik said he believes Salt Lake would have won the bid without the gifts, "A handful of IOC members seem to have seriously abused our generous impulses and expected — and

received - more than they should have heen given.'

Previously, the committee disclosed it paid \$400,000 for 13 scholarships, six of which went to relatives of IOC members.

Leavitt said "these so-called scholarships were not scholarships," since some recipients didn't attend college.

USOC executive director Dick Schultz said he did not expect the 2002 Games to lose sponsors, but the scandal would make it hard for organisers to recruit additional sponsors it needs to adequately fund the

Olympic sponsor U.S. West already has delayed sending a \$5 million payment to SLOC, said company spokesman Michael Frandsen. He said the phone company is worried about its \$50 million investment, but refused to say if it would drop sponsor-

Gov, Leavin said he spoke with IOC President Juan Antonio Samaranch Friday and received assurances Samaranch will "root out wrongdoing and purge it forever."

"I call upon the Olympic family to form an agenda of reform and carry it out with deliberation and speed," Gov. Leavitt said.

"This corner of Olympic corruption did not begin in Salt Lake City. But let it end

# Korda keeps silent over drugs furore

MELBOURNE (AFP) -Defending Australian Open tennis champion Peter Korda refused to be drawo Saturday when questioned on the drugs storm enveloping him after his first practice session since arriving here.

The Czech's presence here has sparked fears that many of the sport's leading players will boycott the year's opening grand slam tournament unless tougher action is taken against Korda, who tested positive to the steroid nandrolone at last year's Wimbledon.

Korda, generally a talkative player to the press and popular with Australian crowds after his victory over Marcelo Rios last year, practised on centre court at Melbourne Park late Saturday.

Journalists were allowed into the stadium for 15 minutes for a photo opportunity while Korda and coach Ivo

Werner had a hit out. But Korda, who arrived in Melbourne late Friday. refused to address media questions as he left the court.

Korda is expected to speak to the media at a scheduled press conference here on Tennis Meanwhile.

Australia president Geoff Pollard said he did not expect a player boycott of the Australian Open if Korda decided to defend his title.

Several players at the Australian men's Hardcourt (hampionship in Adelaide and the Hopman Cup in Perth, including World No. 1 i milsay Davenport, Jonas Bunkman of Sweden and torner No. 1 Jim Courier, have spoken out against Korda playing in the Open.

A players' meeting, schedilled for Melbourne next Saturday, will discuss the 30year-old's commitment to play in the Open and how the Czech escaped an automatic one-year ban for Class I drug offences provided under ITF, ATP and WTA unu-doping rules.

However Pollard, who was in the Gold Coast Saturday for the final day of the Women's Australian Hardcourt Championships, aid he was confident players

hrs of Monday 22/2/1999.

would not pull out of the

"We're concerned at this point for the game of tennis that this has happened hut I don't think it can or should have any effect on the Australian Open." Pollard said of the controversy.

"I don't see any cause, any reason, any logic behind any such action (by the players). "I've heard that they would like to have it discussed at a players' meeting."

The International Tennis Federation intends to lodge an appeal before Monday with the Court of Arbitration for Sport in Switzerland against the decision by its own appeals committee not to suspend Korda.

The ITF has 10 days in which to lodge a second, more detailed appeal and then the panel of three judges - one appointed by the court, one by the federation and one by Korda -- has four months to make a deci-

Korda was docked the prizemoney and computer rankings points he won at Wimbledon after satisfying the independent appeals committee that there were exceptional circumstances surrounding his positive test.

Pollard said he was confident that when Korda played in the Australian Open last year, he was clear of any "We know that we have a

proper drug testing scheme in place and people are tested randomly in the early rounds and those in the quarterfinals onwards," Pollard said.

# **Qatar Open**

# Henman squeezes through but German sends Ivanisevic packing

DOHA (AFP) - Top-seeded Tim Henman had to pull out all the stops to overcome American Jeff Tarango and earn a place in the semifinals of the \$1 million ATP event here Friday.

The British No. 1, who is ranked seventh in the world, needed 154 minutes to shrug off the dogged Tarango 6-4. 6-7 (13/15), 6-4.

Tarango, who is best rememhered his disqualification after storming off court at Wimbledon in 1995, lived up to his 'had-boy reputation by constantly arguing line decisions. He also called the umpire

"childish" and tried blatant gamesmanship to put Henman off his game — earning a time violation by sitting in his change-over chair well over the limit when the British player was ready to serve. "Jeff will do anything he can to win whether it is inside or outside the rules. But it does make it pretty entertaining." admitted Henman, who slammed down 21 aces but who needed to dig deep after losing a 28-point second-set tie-break.

But if Henman survived fourth-seeded Goran Ivanisevic of Croatia was left looking for the exit after crashing to the world's 111th ranked player.

And the erratic Ivanisevic was let down by what is normally his strongest weapon - his serve - as he went



Tim Henman of England hits a forehand to his opponent Geff Torango of U.S. during their quarter-final match at the Qatar Tennis Open in Doha. Henman won 6-4, 6-7, 6-

Rainer Schuttler 6-2, 6-7 15/71, 6-2. The Croatian, who hit

more aces than any other

player last season, sent

down to German qualifier can't beat anyone when I play like this. It was a horror

> Henman now plays Karim Alami for a place in Sunday's final.

all-Morocean clash with Hicham Arazi 6-1, 6-7 (2/7).

Schunler's next opponent seventh-seeded Cedric Pioline of France who defeated Mariano Zabaleta of Argentina 7-6 (7/5), 6-2

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# Three killed, five injured | Rival Iraqi Kurds say to unite in Cairo building collapse

ple were killed, including a teenage boy, and five others injured when a five-storey building collapsed overnight in a southern Cairo workingclass district, police and witnesses said Sunday.

Police and neighbours said they expected the toll to rise. Rescue workers and police

at the scene of the collapse in the popular district of Ard El Lewa said they believed 10 more people were still trapped under the rubble. Earlier reports said as many as 16 were missing.

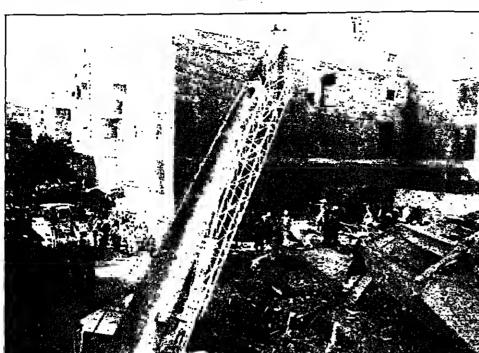
Fifteen-year-old Ahmad Massaad Mohamad was killed in the accident and the bodies of a man and a woman were pulled out Sunday morning, police and witnesses said. Three men and two women were injured.

The building located in the Giza governorate collapsed as residents prepared to take the "suhur," or the last meal hefore the dawn-to-dusk fast of the Ramadan Muslim holy month, according to witness-

Neighbours said 12 families lived in the building and rescue workers worked into the day Sunday to try to find sur-

"We hear! a deafening noise like an earthquake and then smoke rose up filling the air." Hamed Mustafa who lived across from the stricken building told AFP.

"When the smoke settled



Rescue workers search through the rubble of a collapsed Cairo building Sunday (Reuters photo)

we saw that the building across the street had collapsed on its side and into a plot of land where workers have been digging foundations for a new building," Mustafa said.

There were 12 families living in this building and many children," be said.

Neighbourhood residents blamed the collapse on the construction work underway in an adjacent plot of land which they said shook the foundations of the apartment block.

Police sources said the

building contractor had been arrested pending an investiga-

They believed the work caused the collapse of the building and affected the stability of two other neighbouring apartment blocks which were immediately evacuated after the collapse.

Social Affairs Minister Mervat Tellawy ordered that 1,000 pounds (about \$300) be given to the families of the victims and 500 pounds (about \$150) for the injured, the Egyptian news agency MENA reportings across Egypt are threat-ened with collapse over the next 20 years because most of them are too old and lack maintenance, former housing minister Salah Hassaballah

Three quarters of all build-

predicted three years ago. A year later, in October 1996, the collapse of an apartment block in the upmarket neighbourhood of Heliopolis killed 64 people. The owner had illegally added five storeys to the seven-storey building.

# 16 months in prison for attempted divorce

By Jacques Lemieux Agence France Presse

MONTREAL — Taha Bekhiti lives in a tiny oneroom apartment in a poor area of this city. But he says it's better than the more than one year he spent in an Algerian ail cell for trying to divorce his wife.

"I spent 491 days in hell." the Algerian-born Canadian citizen said in an interview this week.

"I was tortured for 17 days. They beat me, they stomped on me, they tore out a fingernail and broke my tooth." he

Bekhtiti. 42, is still weak from his ordeal.

He has had double citizenship since 1979. He met Zahia Bouhenia in Algeria, and says he thought she was a modern Muslim woman.

They were married in 1994. His troubles began after their arrival in Montreal. when — to his despair — Bouhenia began to frequent radical Islamist groups in the

Very upset, in October 1996, he took advantage of a trip to Algeria to try to divorce

"I sure didn't move to Montreal to live with a veiled woman who hangs around with Muslim brothers," he says he told his father-in-law.

Furious, his father-in-law hired a lawyer, who Bekhiti says threatened to kill him and then stole his Ca passport and checks.

Bekhiti managed to get a temporary passport from the Canadian embassy in Algiers. and planned to return to Montreal and strip his wife's residency permit that she had obtained through him.

He left Bouhenia 170,000 dinars (about \$2,300) for living expenses.

He filed for divorce in Montreal in April 1997. In June the same year, he returned to Algeria to visit his dying grandmother.

Once there he was arrested by police, who Bekhin says were acting on orders from another lawyer. Hachi Youssof, a well-connected cousin of his wife "who knows colonels, commanders and is the right-hand man of Prosecutor Mahmoud," he said.

On June 29 Bekhiti appeared in Mahmoud's

St. Afrem Syrian Orthodox

in Amman Tel. 5811295

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Salle College Tel. 5661757

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WEATHER

Armenian Orthodox

courtroom in Maghnia, in western Algeria.

"He told me he could make me visit all the prisons in Algeria, or if I wasn't happy with that he would blow my hrains out right away." Bekhi-

He was condemned to 22 ars in prison for deserting his family and not paying his During his imprisonment at

Maghnia and the 'Death Prison at Tlemcen. he sent appeal after appeal to the Canadian embassy in Algiers.

Freed prisoners took messages to the embassy on tiny hits of paper. There was no

response. At the same time, Youssof seized the home Bekhiti's father gave to him and sold it. pocketing the \$6,100-profit.

In Ottawa, a spokesman for the Canadian Foreign Ministry said they had tried to help. "The embassy received his messages of distress and tried to come to his aide," the spokesman said. "But the Algerian authorities refused all contact with Mr. Bekhiti." Bekhiti doesn't buy that

explanation. French prisoners in the same situation as me [double nationality] had regular visits from French consular officials, who brought them food and clothing," he said.

Other foreign prisoners also had no problems, he said. Bekhiti finally received amnesty in November.

He managed to get to Paris where he contacted both the Canadian embassy there and the Quebec delegation to ask for help in returning to Canada. Both said there was nothing they could do.

But Bekhiti managed to buy a plane ticket to return to Montreal with the help of the Algerian exile community in

At the airport, he was met by a photographer from the Journal de Montreal, who was so horrified by his condinon that he drove him to a hospital.

He was hospitalised with a pneumonia. and later released. He is still under a doctor's care, and his case has been taken up by Amnesty International,

Bekhin has one consolation - the Quebec Superior Court has just informed him that his divorce has been granted.

ANKARA (R) - The rival leaders of two Iraqi Kurdish groups agreed at the weekend to put aside differences in the face of Baghdad's challenges to a no-fly zone set up to protect a Kurdish enclave in northern Iraq.

Massoud Barzani and Jalal Talabani met in northern Iraq to discuss progress in a fourmonth-old U.S.-brokered peace deal but also addressed recent tension between Iraq and the United States, a joint statement said late on Satur-

"In discussing the current situation in Kurdistan and Iraq. both sides agreed to unify their positions toward current events and developments," it said without elaborating. Northern Iraq has been

BAGHDAD (R) - Iraq

unidentified Arab circles

who urged Baghdad to

apologise to Kuwait for

invading the emirate in

"Certain Arab circles are

uttering dubious calls that

lraq should apologise for

the [occupation of Kuwait]

in order to open the way for

Deputy Prime Minister

Tareq Aziz said in a front-

page editorial in the ruling

Baath Party newspaper Al

"Those making such

calls, i.e. those collaborat-

ing since 1990 with the

American-Zionist scheme to destroy lraq and control

the region, are distorting

Aziz said that before Iraq

invaded Kuwait, the latter

had committed "economic

aggression" against Iraq by

raising its oil production.

undermining the price of oil which is Iraq's main

facts of... history."

Thawra.

reconciliation,"

denomiced

on Sunday

Iraq blasts Arabs who

urge apology to Kuwait

Patriotic Union of Kurdistan since the mountainous region broke from Baghdad's control after the 1991 Gulf War. The United States has tried to forge unity between the two groups to form a hulwark against the Iraqi government. U.S.-British air patrols of the no-fly zone designed to protect the Kurdish enclave have twice clashed with Iraqi air defences in the last two weeks. leading to expres-

to Barzani and Talabani's

ratic Party. The northern air patrols divided between forces loyal

cover the Kurdish enclave as well as a swath of territory controlled by Baghdad, U.S. planes have also exchanged fire with Iraqi forces over

"Are the Kuwain rulers

victims or criminals collab-

orating with those commit-

ting aggression against Iraq

The Iraqi parliament was

due to vote on Sunday on a

set of recommendations to

deputies urged the rejection

of all U.N. Security Coun-

cil resolutions on Iraq and

of Western-imposed no-fly

zones in northern and

southern Iraq. At an extra-

ordinary session of parlia-

ment on Saturday, MPs also

said countries which

allowed U.S. and British

planes to launch air strikes

from their territory against

Iraq last month should be

branded hostile states and

Kuwait. Saudi Arabia and

Turkey have allowed U.S.

and British planes to rein-

force the no-fly zones

declared by Western pow-

ers after the 1991 Gulf War

in which U.S.-led, forces

ended Iraq's seven-month occupation of Kuwait.

should be punished.

leadership after

deliberately?" he said.

sions of concern from

Barzani's Kurdistan Democ-

While Barzani and Talabani were meeting in Barzani's hilltop stronghold

Salahuddin, members of the Iraqi parliament urged the rejection of all U.N. Security Council resolutions on Iraq and of Western-imposed nofly zones in the north and south of the country. The Iraqi parliament also

said countries which allowed U.S. and British planes to launch air strikes from their territory should be branded hostile states and should be punished. Kuwait Saudi Arabia and

Turkey have allowed U.S. and British planes to enforce the no-fly zones. The two Kurdish leaders

pledged to maintain good relations with neighbouring countries and to consolidate "security in the region on the basis of general interest." Turkey, fighting its Kurdish Sixty-six air cor

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By Lima Nabil

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rebels, keeps a semi-permanent presence in-areas of northern Iraq controlled by The two Kurdish leaders also reaffirmed a peace accord

signed in Washington in September that aims to end years of intermittent fighting that broke out when a powersharing deal failed in 1994. Under the Washington deal the two sides agreed on a transition to a regional government, to share revenue from an illicit diesel trade run hy Turkey and Barzani's party and to deny shelter to Turkish Kurd rebels operat-

ing from the region.

# NEWS IN BRIEF

Albanian suspected to have links to Ben Laden arrested

TIRANA (AFP) - An Albanian suspected of having links with Osama Ben Laden, a Saudi wanted by Washington for alleged terrorism, has been arrested here for spying on U.S. diplomats, an interior ministry official said Sunday Maksim Ciciku, head of a private security agency, was arrested in the early hours of Saturday in a joint operation between the Albanian police and the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), the official told AFP

#### Exiled opposition say Bahraini families deported

LONDON (R) — The Gulf Arab state of Bahrain has recently deported three Bahraini families after their return from abroad, an exiled opposition group said on Sunday. Three families were forcibly deported from Bahrain upon their return to their homeland," the London-based Bahrain Freedom Movement said in a statement. There was no independent confirmation of the report. The group said Abdul Majid Al Asfoor, his wife and five children, who arrived from Denmark on Dec. 28, were detained for three days before they were sent back to Denmark.

#### Tourabi says has no presidential ambitions.

KHARTOUM (R) — Parliament speaker and Islamist ideologue Hassan Al Tourabi said in remarks published on Sunday he had no amhitions to be Sudan's president: "I am not ambitious for any executive position especially as I will be 70 in two years," the pro-government Akhbar Al-Youm quoted Turabi as saying. "Those who speak of Dr Al Turabi being the next president are nonsensical.

# Iranian regime divided on crisis over secret services

TEHRAN (AFP) - Iran's political factions are divided over how to deal with the country's intelligence ministry after the stunning admission that its secret agents were involved in the murders of intellectuals and dissidents.

Islamic left-wingers backing President Mohammad Khatami have demanded the removal of the intelligence ministry's conservative chief, Ghorban-Ali Dorrie Najafabadi, and called for a shakeup of the agency.

But conservatives cite the incident as an aberration and appear determined to keep moderates and liberals from making any political gains out of the controversy.

"This sedition must not be treated as an opportunity for settlement of political accounts," warned the conservarive daily Qods, describing Donie-Najafabadi as a "fairminded eleric with an admirable revolutionary record.

The propaganda offensive and cowardly attack against the minister by foreign media and some naive people inside [the regime] is a part of a seenario behind the recent foreign sedition," it said.

English-language The Tehran Times, citing "wellinformed sources," said Sunday that Dome-Najafabadi would stay on as intelligence chief after receiving support from Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, the country's supreme leader. Khamenei praised the ministry on Friday for "showing

courage" in coming clean with the murder affair and described subsequent criticisms of the agency as 'unfair.'' He also reiterated what has

in effect become the conservative line on the killings - that elements outside Iran were involved The ministry itself, in admit-

ting the affair, said the rogue agents had nes outside the Islamic Republic.

But left-wingers appear convinced that the roots of the murders are inside the regime and are linked to a wave of

of American tourists in October, aimed at undernining Khatami's reform policies. The Association of Combat-

Islamic extremist violence

The burning of bookshops, the disrupting of political and religious gatherings the attacks on newspapers and the bold armed attack on foreign tourists - all this has strength ened the belief that the culputs come from inside the regime

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Fire Brigade4617101
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Highway Police 5343402
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HOSPITALS

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Ibn Sina Hospital \_\_\_\_\_ 109)986731

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Princess Basma Hospital .(02)275555

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### ARRIVALS

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16:45 New York, Amsterdam (RJ) Roman Catholic Hospital (02)272275 18:05 ..... Ibn Al Nafees Hospital 18:35 .....Casablanca, Tunis (RJ) 20:30 ....Bangkok, Shariqah (RJ) 20:45 .... Abu Dhabi, Tehran (RJ) 00:15 \_\_\_\_\_Tel Aviv (add) (RJ) 21:15 \_\_\_\_\_Mnscat, Dubai (RJ) 03:00 Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur (RJ) 21:20 Damascos (RJ)

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DEPARTURES

(RW)

including an attack on a group

ant Clerics (ACC), a group of left-wing religious leaders. said the ministry's involvement in the killings indicated the root of the problem was internal.

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AMMAN (J.T.) on's Board of In regulations and ar immittees. The be as its rapporteur.